

VOL. III NO. 20

RACING TIPS

(BY "THE TURF")

First Race

Kentucky Moon
Queen of Hearts
Fluke Shot

Second Race

Beckham
Priority
Big Shot

Third Race

Rose Emme
Thunderbolt

Porky

Fourth Race

Sapientia

Shahin

Amigo

Fifth Race

Domino

Belle Fontaine

Arlington

Sixth Race

Norse Queen

Atama

Daisy Bell

Seventh Race

Anyway

Arctic

Constant Star

Eighth Race

Lana

Desert Knight

King of Peace

Ninth Race

Ding How

Sibber

Mabuhay

Tenth Race

Heroic Lassie

Mona Lisa

Strathamara

Eleventh Race

Blue Sky

Pearl Diver

Rifle

Train Smash: 3 Killed

London, Jan. 23.—Three men were killed and 34 men and women were injured when a packed electric train from Ore, near Hastings, crashed into the rear of an empty stationary Brighton train at London Bridge station this morning.

Those killed included the motor-man of the Ore train and a man who was standing by a bookstall on the platform. The other casualty was a learner motorman on the Ore train. His identity is as yet unknown.

The Ore train forced the Hastings train through the station buffers, demolishing a bookstall in which two spectators were trapped. The two passengers were trapped for three hours in the demolished cab.

Rescue parties used all kinds of tools, including a huge breakdown crane, in desperate efforts to free them, but when it became known that they were dying, a clergyman forced his way through the twisted metal to comfort them before they died. The two bodies were exhumed later.

Nineteen of the injured passengers were taken to Guy's Hospital. Many had miraculous escapes.—Reuter.

EDITORIAL

Still A Breeding Ground

MORE than a month ago the Telegraph reported on the condition of the detention cells at the Central Police Station. They were filthy, insanitary and grossly overcrowded—a breeding ground for epidemics and disease. This week we again inquired about the state of the cells, the report being: The Sanitary Department was requested to clean the cells, which was done immediately. A new set of latrines has been provided for the prisoners to replace the leaking wooden buckets, and these are now emptied twice a day instead of once. The PWD were asked to whitewash the cells. They succeeded in treating the ceilings, but found that the whitewash would not stick to the walls, and this task was temporarily abandoned, with the promise that the workmen "would be back sometime" to scrape, clean and whitewash the walls, "when they had time." Blankets have been provided for the inmates, and the Police have suggested that the empty offices on the north side of the Central Police Station compound be converted into dormitories, with proper ventilation and flush facilities. This project has been proposed to the PWD who have promised they will attend to it "sometime soon." The public will gain little satisfaction from such a dreary endeavour to cor-

The Hongkong Telegraph.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1948.

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Mr Attlee's Vigorous Attack On Communism

CANNOT SHUT EYES TO POSSIBILITY OF WAR

London, Jan. 23.—The Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, today followed up the warning to Soviet Russia against "playing with fire in international affairs" given by his Foreign Minister, Mr Ernest Bevin, yesterday with another strong attack on Communism.

"We recognise that there is in Communism a dynamic force," he said in winding up the two-day debate on foreign affairs in the House of Commons. "It is a fanatical movement enlisting the support of people of a certain type of mind or in a certain condition of society and it has become the official creed of a great nation. "It has but slight appeal to those with experience of Western civilisation, but it does make an appeal to backward peoples who have never known anything better.

"Communism has a tremendous driving force. But Britain was not prepared to accept Communism, although she wishes to have the friendliest relations with the people of Soviet Russia and with the Communist state.

"We are absolutely opposed to the Communist way of life. "The police state is completely repugnant to the people of Western Europe.

"We shall not try to foist our system on the Soviet Union and we equally demand they should not attempt to foist theirs on us.

"I am sure Mr Stalin is enough of a realist to appreciate the complete failure during the difficult inter-war years of the Communist creed to make any effective advance in this country."

"Therefore, he should give up the idea that somehow or other Britain is going to turn to Communism."

IDEOLOGICAL ASSAULT

Britain, he said, was opposed to the Communist conception of uniformity. "The essence of democracy is the difference of opinion, free discussion, tolerance of other people's points of view.

"The world we want to see is one in which there are a number of diverse and different units as compared with the Communist world, in which they try to make Bulgaria and Yugoslavia little copies of Russia.

"If Western civilisation is to stand against this ideological assault—against this ideological assault—against a talk of a war of ideas and not of bombs—it must attain a degree of unity."

"But any attempt to get unity would defeat the very object we have in mind."

Mr Attlee said that although Britain naturally desired to see all countries turn to democratic socialism, it was not for Britain to interfere.

He believed, however, they could all work together despite differences because they had one point in common.

POSSIBILITIES OF WAR

Amid cheers, Mr Attlee said he did not believe it was good to be talking of war. On the other hand it was no good shutting one's eyes to the possibility of war.

"I do not believe war is to be imminent, but I believe we have to use our greatest exertions to do away with the causes of war and prevent war arising."

There was anxiety in the House of Commons over the results of the world being divided on ideological lines.

There was also great anxiety at the course of the Russian actions. There was a general desire to know the real object of the rumour about Russia. No answer was given even by those who habitually explained the Russian point of view.

Parliament, Mr Attlee declared, recognised the need of leadership in the non-Communist world and there was general support for Mr Bevin's policy of closer political and economic integration of Europe, coupled with the recognition that Western Europe could not live by itself.

Hence this desire for a wider integration with Africa and other overseas territories with the great Western democracies and with the British Dominions.

The union of Europe needed to be achieved under the larger unity of the United Nations Organisation.

European civilisation must spread all over the world.

MUST-PRESS AHEAD

As for the practical steps on European economy, there was already machinery in progress for the allocation of wheat, rice, oils and other materials, some on a world and some on a European basis.

The possibilities of a Western European customs union had also been examined and were now passing through the technical stages at Brussels.

This would mean that trade would eventually become free throughout that area. "We should press ahead with the utmost vigour with this idea, consistent with the immense complexities of this problem."—Reuter.



GENERAL EISENHOWER

Eisenhower Refuses To Be Candidate For Presidency

Washington, Jan. 23.—General Eisenhower today finally and positively repudiated efforts to nominate him for President. He told Republican supporters that he "could not accept nomination to high political office."

General Eisenhower's positive statement came after months of speculation on whether he would or would not be a candidate. He had disavowed political ambitions on many occasions, but never, until today, with sufficient force to persuade his admirers he really meant it.

He could not understand how people could oppose the Marshall Plan when they had nothing whatever to put in place, unless they were prepared to march to the realisation of their ideals through death and starvation of millions.

Mr Attlee believed that Britain has the chance of giving a great lead. Britain was showing that what amounted to a social revolution could be brought about by peaceful and democratic means—that one could set a planned economy without sacrificing human rights and liberties.

That was the work she had before her.

MAY BOOST DEWEY

His withdrawal probably will be counted a boost for Governor Thomas Dewey's Presidential ambitions. The New York Governor's political appeal has generally been rated second only to General Eisenhower among potential Republican candidates.

General Eisenhower accompanied his refusal with a word of advice for other professional military men. It was that, except under the most extraordinary circumstances, they should stay out of politics.

Among those being advanced for the Republican Presidential nomination is General Douglas MacArthur, who has been entered in the Wisconsin Presidential primary.

General Eisenhower's statement presumably will cause his New Hampshire delegate slate to withdraw, leaving the contest there between delegates representing ex-Governor Harold Stassen of Minnesota.

CANNOT ACCEPT

In his statement, the Chief of Staff said: "I could not accept the nomination even under the remote circumstance that it was tendered to me."

He stated his position in a letter to Leonard Fender, publisher of the Manchester (N. H.) "Union Leader." The Army said the letter was being released because General Eisenhower hopes through this means to inform every interested person or group that he is not in politics and would refuse nomination even if offered.

General Eisenhower said the decision to remove himself completely from the political scene was "definite and positive" and he wrote to Mr. Fender:

"I know you will not object to my making this letter public to inform all interested persons that I could not accept nomination."

He said he hoped Fender would understand that his conclusions were not only sound but had been arrived at objectively. He added that he heretofore had withheld a bald statement that he would not accept nomination, because he considered it would be an "affront."

"UNALLOYED TRAGEDY"

"It is my conviction that necessary and wise subordination of military to civil power will best be sustained, when lifelong professional soldiers... abstain from seeking high political office."

He said it would be "unalloyed tragedy" if future military commanders were selected with an eye to their potentialities in the political

STRIKE PARALYSES BAVARIA

Inefficiency Of German Officials To Blame

GEN. CLAY SEEKS MORE RATIONS

Munich, Jan. 23.—Bavaria, the largest state in the United States Zone of Germany, was paralysed today by a 24-hour general strike of nearly 1,000,000 workers and railwaymen which started at midnight.

The strike was called by the Bavarian Trade Union Council in protest against the halving of the fat ration, the reduction of the meat ration by 25 per cent, and the rejection by the Bavarian Government of the Communist proposals to end food hoarding.

All trains, including military transport, came to a standstill last night.

Strike leaders warned the Bavarian Government that if their meeting with the Cabinet failed to produce results, the 24-hour strike might be prolonged.

The strike was reported to be spreading to other parts of the Zone, but trade union officials in Hesse refused Communist proposals to join.

In Wiesbaden, Hesse, yesterday, more than 1,500 industrial workers voted to join 7,000 factory workers who have been on strike since Monday.

A GERMAN AFFAIR

Major General George P. Hays, the acting United States Military Governor, said in Berlin that he would not interfere in the Bavarian strike unless it got out of hand and American security was threatened.

"It is entirely a German affair, caused by the inefficiency of the German officials who have not been distributing the food efficiently," he said.

"It will probably be a demonstration rather than a strike—the same kind of thing as the people back home would organise to express their displeasure in similar circumstances."

Restaurants and cafés in Munich were not joining today's strike, the Union of Catering Establishments announced.

The Bizonia Control Office at Frankfurt has approved German proposals that states in Bizonia found withholding food produce from the common pool shall be punished by rationing cuts.

The unrest and hunger strikes in the Ruhr were said by a spokesman of the Anglo-American Coal Control at Essen to have had "no appreciable effect on coal production."—Reuter.

CLAY'S QUEST

Washington, Jan. 23.—General Lucius D. Clay, the United States Commander in Germany, disclosed today that he was asking Congress for \$700 million to raise the average German food ration in Bizonia to 1,800 calories daily.

General Clay said that he saw no reason why the overall ration next month should not be maintained at the 1,400 calories level or why the threatened cut to 800 calories in certain sectors of the British Zone could not be averted.

He told correspondents that the United States was planning no emergency food shipments to solve the present critical situation. "The Germans must solve it themselves. When we see that German administrators are doing all they can, it will encourage us to act."—Reuter.

RATIONS ASSURANCE

Frankfurt, Jan. 23.—The Bizonia Control Office announced here today that nowhere in its area will the population receive much less than 1,200 calories daily during the forthcoming ration period, the German news service in the United States Zone reported.—Reuter.

Air Bases In Cyrenaica

ANGLO-AMERICAN DISCUSSIONS

London, Jan. 23.—Representatives of Britain and the United States have discussed in London tentative plans for the setting up of a chain of Anglo-American tactical air bases in Cyrenaica, North Africa.

Observers in London consider that such bases would probably be primarily in the Benghazi area with some at the eastern end of Cyrenaica, possibly around Tobruk.

There is already a wartime aerodrome at El-Aden, outside Tobruk. British troops evacuated from Palestine will probably be moved to Cyprus, Benghazi and Tripoli, it was recently learned here today.

The new bases, the observers consider, would probably be smaller than the Air Transport Command base which the United States is re-opening at Mellaha, near Tripoli.

PLEDGE TO CHIEFTAIN

The future of any bases planned as the outcome of the present Anglo-American talks will, of course, be subject to the decisions on the future of the former Italian colonies which the "Big Four" delegates may make later this year.

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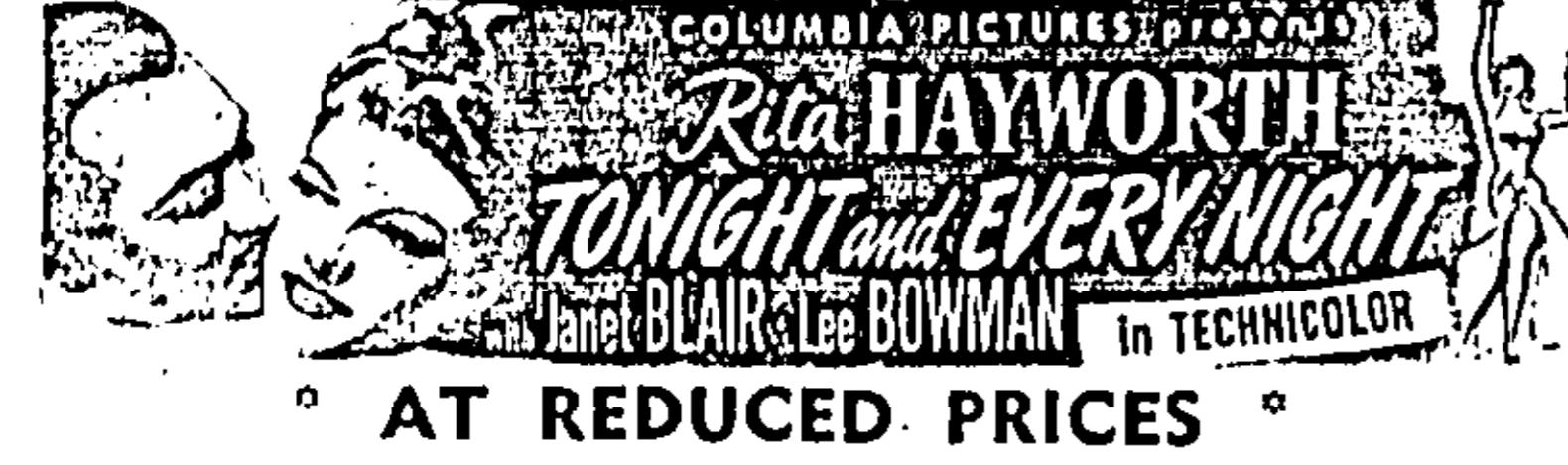
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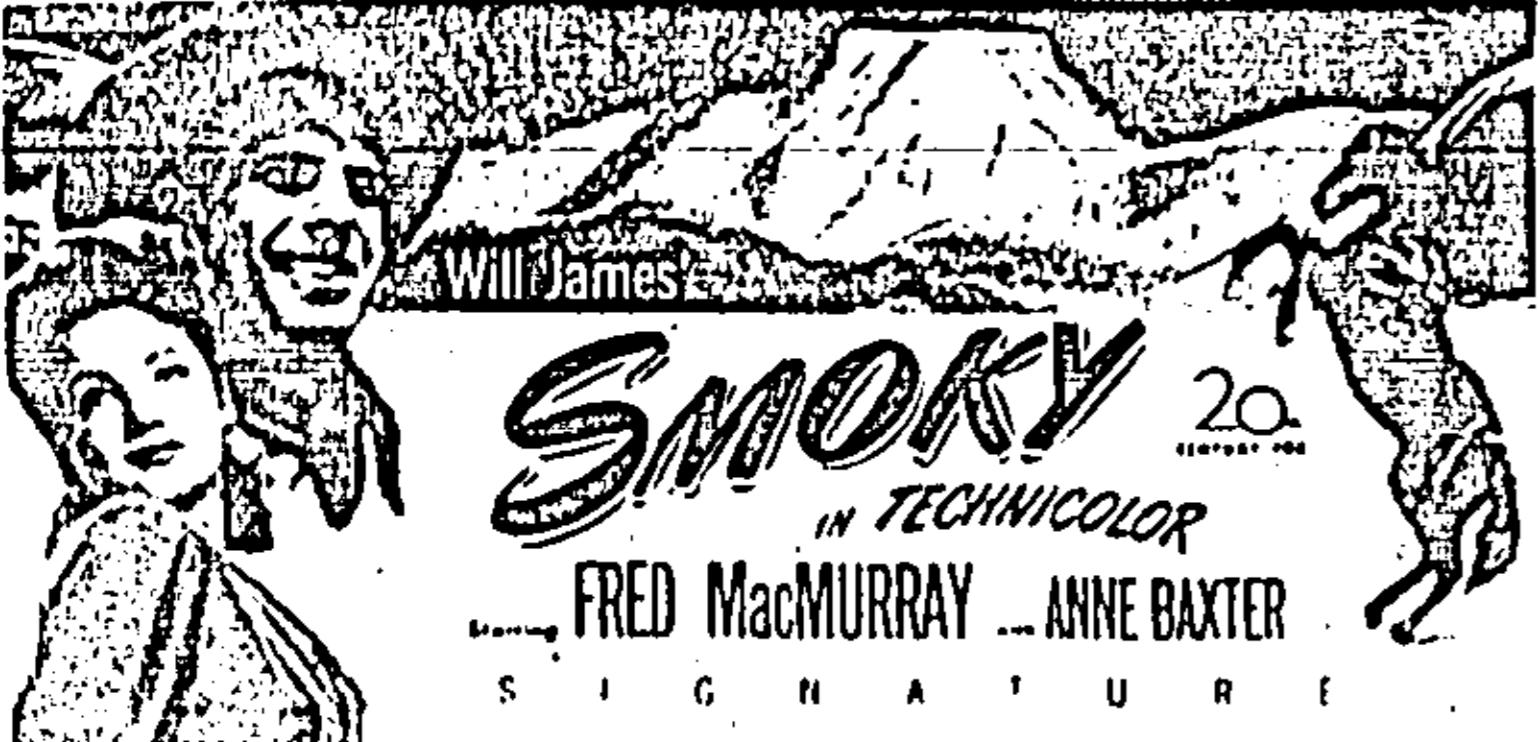
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Humphrey Bogart in "PASSAGE TO MARSEILLES"

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Bing CROSBY Bob HOPE Paulette GODDARD in



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TO-DAY **MAJESTIC** AT 2.30, 5.20,
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COURAGE OF LASSIE
IN TECHNICOLOR
Starring:
ELIZABETH TAYLOR
FRANK MORGAN & TOM DRAKE
AN M-G-M HIT

Stars accuse the film bosses

THERE are signs that restlessness among British film stars over "sausage-machine" production methods is coming to a head. The drift from the studios to stage work is one significant portent.

The rather pompous announcement by the Rank organisation, suspending Margaret Lockwood's contract for declining a role, is unimportant in itself. They have already chosen a new film for her, "My Sister is Dead."

But the incident is the first public manifestation of an unhealthy tendency in Big Business film methods here.

Many stars and directors have complained to me of the bureaucratic system.

Directors find they are being "dictated" from a high executive level in a way that stifles imagination and enthusiasm. Stars are complaining of type-casting and the compulsion, under long-term contracts, of acting in unsuitable roles. This is why an increasing number

LINDA'S A "MASS OF BLISTERS"

Hollywood. — Linda Darnell complains that corsets she has had to wear in historical films including "Forever Amber" may deprive her of motherhood.

She says her body is "such a mass of blisters and welts it will take six months' remedial exercise to make it normal."

Adds Linda: "Those corsets have reduced me 17 pounds."

From London comes support for Linda from two of England's famous beauties—the Dowager Marchioness of Headfort, formerly Rosalie Boot, the Gaiety Girl, and Mrs. J. Evans, formerly Camille Clifford, the original Gibson Girl.

Linda is not censured when told wasp-waisted women of Victorian days had big families. Although some Victorian women had 20 children both mothers and children often died young.

BOX-OFFICE SCORES FOR 1947

LONDON.—New York's National Board of Review of Motion Pictures names Celia Johnson and Michael Redgrave the best actress and actor of 1947.

In 1946 the critics of 10 New York daily papers picked Miss Johnson as that year's best actress for her part in "Brief Encounter."

The Board selected Miss Johnson for her part in "This Happy Breed," Redgrave for his part in "Mourning Becomes Electra."

It considered Chaplin's "Monsieur Verdoux" the best film in 1947.

The Board included "Great Expectations," "Odd Man Out," "The Overlanders" and two Italian productions in the year's 10 best pictures.

The American film weekly, Showman's Trade Review, considers James Mason the most popular actor in Britain with Anna Neagle and Margaret Lockwood sharing the lead of actresses.

The Kinematograph Weekly says the best box-office film of 1947 in Britain was "The Courteous of Curzon Street."

Runners-up were "Great Expectations," "Odd Man Out," "Frieda's Holiday Camp," and Hollywood's "The Jolson Story" and "Duel in the Sun."

This journal says John Mills led James Mason and Margaret Lockwood as the most popular star.

Gainsborough was the most successful studio of the year 1947.

COMMOTION IN 7 LANGUAGES

Merle Oberon sneezed on the set of "Berlin Express" and caused a commotion in seven languages.

Chinese-born Robert Ryan said, "God bless you."

Charles Korvin gave the Hungarian word, "Egezzeré!"

Paul Lukas, who plays a German in the film, stayed in character with "Gesundheit!"

Director Jacques Tourneur, born in Paris, said, "A vos sounants."

Polish-born Roman Toporow came up with "Na zdrowie."

And Linguist Peter von Zerneck filled in with the Italian "Saluto" and the Rumanian "Noroc."

STAR—Bells of St. Mary (Bing Crosby, Ingrid Bergman)

MAJESTIC—Courage of Lassie (Elizabeth Taylor)

By HAROLD CONWAY

Eighteen-year-old Joan Dowling (she was the eldest evacuee in the play "No Room at the Inn") had to saunter along the street as an over-dressed match-up from a fashion house.

When the "rushes" were shown on the studio screen, there appeared the image of a man, turning and glancing with interest at Joan. It fitted the scene so well that the shot is being kept in.

The unwitting actor may be in for a shock at his local cinema.

NOISES OFF

I HAVE no intention of gate-crashing the To Boo or Not To Boo debate. But recent demonstrations at Covent Garden call for comment.

Friendly operatic rivalry is healthy. But if this rivalry is going to foster vocal factions among the followers of the theatres concerned, we can look for some disconcerting developments.

Impartial observers have suspected that there might be more than appeared on the surface behind some of the opera booting lately. Correspondence I have received lends colour to this view.

We have plenty of room in London for opera in English and Italian. There is no need for the partisans wage a miniature war.

POET'S PALACE

GAIBNSBOROUGH'S idea of making a Byron film, with Dennis Price in the lead, is an interesting one, though attempts to dramatise literary genius do not always succeed, as a recent Shelley-Byron play again instanced.

The film will picture some of the authentic Italian backgrounds, including the poet's old palace on the Venice Grand Canal. Mr Price and a location will have recently been out there.

But I am sorry they are calling the picture "The Bad Lord Byron." This seems a cheap pandering to the wrong kind of box-office appeal.



JOAN DOWLING
Bond-street incident

SHOWING
TO-DAY **QUEEN'S** at 2.30, 5.15,
7.15 & 9.15 p.m.

Enchantment!

It's the spell a goddess still uses silent men. It's what makes this a musical with a magic all its own.

MAUREEN OHARA · DICK JAMES · ELLIOTT JAMES in *Enchantment* Songs

Do You Love Me

A 20th CENTURY-FOX PICTURE

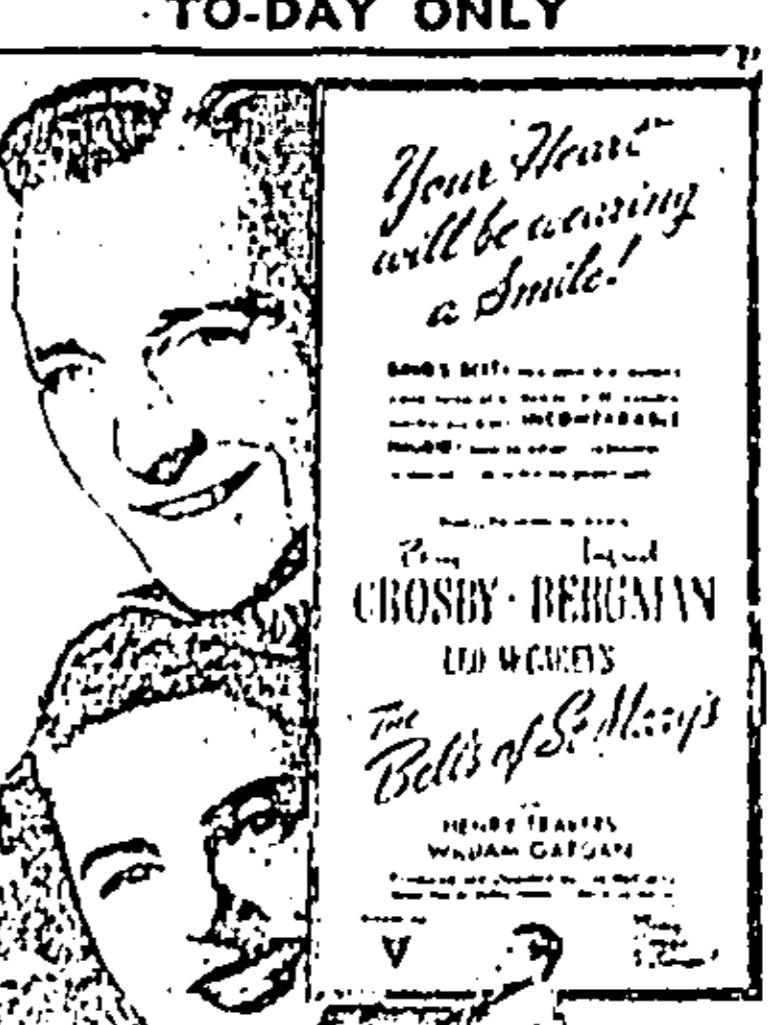
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NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

YOUR RADIO LISTENING FOR NEXT WEEK IN DETAIL—A BBC TELEGRAPHIC FEATURE

SECRET CORRESPONDENCE OF HITLER AND MUSSOLINI

Radio Feature For Next Monday

The secret correspondence of Hitler and Mussolini, in dramatised radio form, will be presented to listeners by ZBW on Monday night at 7.45. This is a programme which throws a fascinating light on the relationship between the two dictators. It has been arranged for the BBC by H. R. Trevor-Roper, who did so much to solve the mystery of Hitler's death, and Terence Tiller, and is produced by Laurence Gilliam.

Tonight Mr. Donald McCullough will give a talk on "How to run a Brain's Trust," and next Monday evening Mr. K. A. Watson starts a new series of talks on photography.

Details of forthcoming programme follow.

Tonight

12.30 Italy: Programme Summary.

12.30 Italy: *Belotti-Di Stefano*—Italian Music (Johann Strauss arr. Desormeaux) From the Repertoire of Colonel Wilde Balsi's Ballets Russes.

12.30 Italy: Scene and Waltz; Polka, Waltz and Extrance of the Harz; Mazurka and Scene of the Comedians; Blue Danube and Waltz; Mazurka—Finale (First Part); and Conclusion—London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Arturo Dalsal.

1.00 Songs By Harold Williams (Baritone).

Where the Harvest's In (T. G. Steindl-Benelli); The Merry-Go-Round (Pate); Onaway, awake Beloved (Cavene); The Little Player (Ahitzen); Ten green Bottles (Traditional)—With Male Chorus.

1.15 MUSICAL WEATHER REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1.25 Orchestral Interlude.

Berceuse (Jarnye) — Orchestre Baymonde.

1.30 **WEDNESDAY: ANDY HIDALGO AND HIS ORCHESTRA.**

Breakfast Fandango; Flying Home; People will say we're in love; Southern Standal; Dark Town Strutters Ball; What a difference a name; Lead with your left; Salt Peanuts With Lorna; Vocal.

2.00 Close Down.

6.00 BBC TRANSCRIPTION SERVICE: "MUCH BINDING IN THE MARCH."

With Richard Murdoch, Kenneth Hornsby, Sam Costa, Marilyn Williams, Victoria (Kathleen) Dick Grimes and BBC Orchestra. Conducted by Stanley Black.

6.30 A Night Orchestral Programme and Whistle Melville (Spano).

Benedictus (MacKenzie)—New Light Symphony Orchestra; The Meaning of a Rose (Desly)—Whistle Melville; A Dream of a Girl (Kathleen)—Kathleen D. Grant and His Orchestra; Whistle in your dreams (Levinsky) — Whistle Melville; Drink to me only with thine eyes (Fair Quiller)—New Light Sym. Orchestra; Stomping (Traditional)—My Man (Adams)—Whistle Melville; A Night in Venice—Pulpmusic (Johann Strauss arr. Wenzinger)—March Weber and His Orchestra.

7.00 LONDON RELAY: WORLD AND HOME NEWS.

7.15 STUDIO: "UNIT REQUESTS."

Linda Carter Calling — H.M.S., "Tamar," "See You" on Sport.

8.25 Lilt: Hungarian Rhapsody No. 10; Ants-Dormann, Piano.

8.30 BBC Transcription Service: "The Pain."

A Party From the Little Karet, By Pauline Smith.

9.00 Weather Report.

9.15 **WEDNESDAY: THE BRAINS TRUST QUIZ MASTER.**

9.30 BBC TRANSCRIPTION SERVICE: "PAUL TEMPLE & THE GREGORY AFFAIR."

10.00 **WEDNESDAY: Episode 5.** "Vivian Van Crevet," Episode 5.

10.00 LONDON RELAY: RADIO NEWS.

10.15 **WEDNESDAY: AND DANCE MUSIC.**

Take the "A" Train—Quickstep (Strayhorn)—Victor Silvester's Ballroom Orchestra; The Rye—Maggle Teyley Suprano; Bonnie Mary of Arville—Sydney MacEwan; Tenor; The Keel Row—Marie (Cathleen) Cathleen Mulligan Vocal Duet with Piano accompaniment—George and Peter Kubelik.

7.00 LONDON RELAY: WORLD AND HOME NEWS.

7.15 **WEDNESDAY: SCOTTISH PROGRAMME.**

Times—The London Palladium Orchestra; The Gray—Jack Pyle and Stephen Silver wind in the moonlight—Slow fox-trot (Charles)—Joe Loss and His Orchestra; Say the word and it's yours—Grey—Highland Patrol—Ravel and Landauer on Two Pianos; Melodies of

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1.00 Songs By Harold Williams (Baritone).

Where the Harvest's In (T. G. Steindl-Benelli); The Merry-Go-Round (Pate); Onaway, awake Beloved (Cavene); The Little Player (Ahitzen); Ten green Bottles (Traditional)—With Male Chorus.

1.15 MUSICAL WEATHER REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1.25 Orchestral Interlude.

Berceuse (Jarnye) — Orchestre Baymonde.

1.30 **WEDNESDAY: ANDY HIDALGO AND HIS ORCHESTRA.**

Breakfast Fandango; Flying Home; People will say we're in love; Southern Standal; Dark Town Strutters Ball; What a difference a name; Lead with your left; Salt Peanuts With Lorna; Vocal.

2.00 Close Down.

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Monday

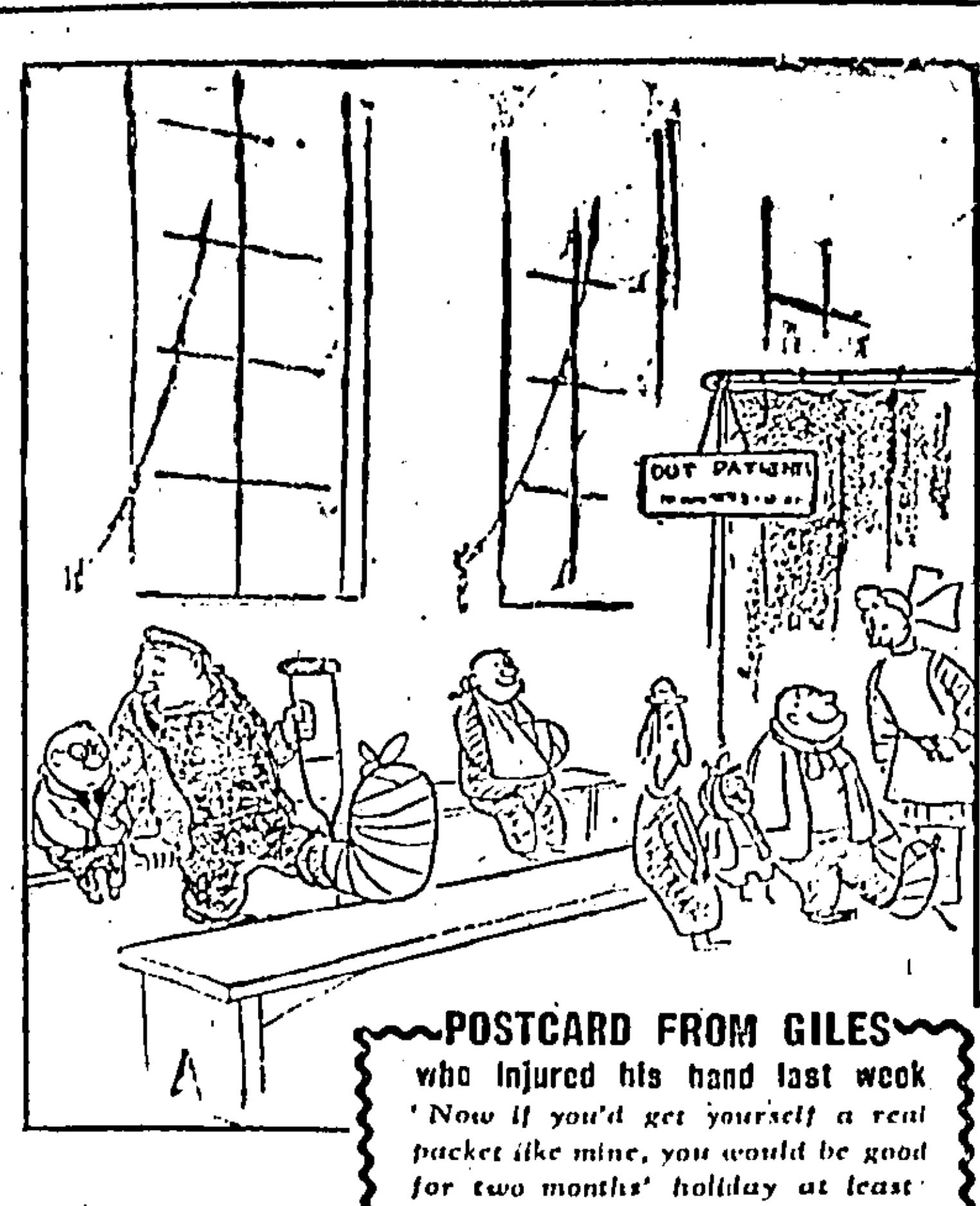
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POSTCARD FROM GILES
who injured his hand last week
Now if you'd get yourself a real
packet like mine, you would be good
for two months' holiday at least

'Seven days on a two-day flight.'
W. J. BROWN, MP, finds a reason—

Why our airlines lose money

THE overall loss on the first year's working of Britain's State-owned Airline Corporations is more than ten million pounds. This article may help to explain why.

The direct journey to Jamaica by sea takes from 12 to 16 days according to type of ship and according to the weather. The flight by air is scheduled to take only two days.

But schedules are one thing and practical experience is often another. Here is one passenger's practical experience of a flight from Britain to Jamaica.

ON the Thursday morning before Christmas the passengers were told to be at the London terminus at 9.40 a.m. Their reservations were checked, baggage was weighed, and the usual formalities were completed. The passengers were then, after 2½ hours' delay, driven to Heathrow, from which the airplane was due to take off at 11.55, which was long past when they arrived there.

Not 12 noon, you will notice. But 11.55 a.m. precisely. In air travel minutes count—or do they?

JESTS AND JEERS

A better description would be "pat-rotism."

A woman begins by resisting a man's advances, and ends up by blocking his retreat.

Will power has been described as ability to eat one salted peanut.

Overhead at a cocktail party: "Why, he's a perfect gentleman. All you have to do is stop his face in a while."

Income is something you can't live without—or live within.

A pin-up girl is one who proclaims her charm from the housetops.

A football referee likes to have the crowd behind him. But not too close on his heels.

"I prescribe absolute quiet for your husband," said the doctor. "Here's a sleeping powder."

"When do I give it to him?" asked the wife.

"You don't. You take it yourself."

Ultra Violet Rays Fight School Colds

An Illinois grammar school is fighting common colds with ultra violet rays. John Dunlop, principal of Loucks School, said the rays work. They are supposed to eliminate germs from the air. Dunlop installed several ray lamps in a class room. He said tests showed the lamps cut absenteeism due to colds by at least 25 percent.

"BANDITS" IS WRONG, THIS IS WAR!

Here in the mountains you find pitched battles—in the Greek style

THIS thing in Greece is convoys coming back: there war—real, bitter war. The world has been misled by the word "bandit."

Bumping and swerving on one of Europe's worst roads, from Janina to the front, was back in 1945, or, more appropriately, in winter 1940, when the Greeks were pushing Mussolini's crack troops around in the countryside.

Convoys going up to the front were hustling against

convos coming back: there

were dumps along the road-

side, advance dressing stations,

craters where mines had blown

trucks to kingdom come or

scattered mules in debris over

the countryside.

In imagination, this so-called

bandit war has seemed nothing

more than a series of cut and

runs, with burning villages as

the trade mark of success.

In fact, in the

saucer-like hollow of Konitsa

vally, the

towering moun-

tains flung the echoes of pitched

battle around with the strangest

effects, giving them demoni-

cally significant.

The Greek Army offensive,

which I watched from an artil-

lery observation post, was as

like anything in real war as two

pins. There were smoke and

the fumes of high explosives,

the crackle of rifle and machine-

gun fire, the ugly dull snap of

mortar shells bursting on the

boulder-strewn mountain sides.

There was the thin trickle of

wounded limping back.

Another group will cluster round.

"They burned the house of Stephanos Janou. They put his wife

and three little children inside and roasted them alive. Stephanos was a

member of our Home Guard; he

had a rifle."

Another said: "We fled in terror.

Guerrillas brought back three of our

young men who had been forcibly

conscripted to their army and who

had tried to escape. Before our

eyes they beat them the whole day

until the going down of the sun,

and beneath the moon they kicked

their lives away with the heels of

their boots."

These are the things which the

Greek soldier knows when he goes

into battle. He knows, too, that his

enemy can retreat into the safety

of a friendly foreign territory,

whence he receives most of his

supplies, and where his wounded

are taken to hospital.

Shells fall on him while he

struggles up rocky mountain slopes

to come to hand grips with the

rebels. He knows these guns can

not be silenced, because they fire

from the protection of international

conventions.

He sees no future. When the

rebels are routed in the Konitsa

area, somewhere else they will erupt

again into Greece over the Yugoslav

Bulgarian—or—Albanian—borders.

There is a deep-down feeling of

bitterness in his heart. A hundred

times a day he tells you, "Our small

country is fighting alone against the

Eastern threat to Western democ-

racy."

"We are not fighting 6,000 Greek

guerrillas," said Colonel Laspas, chief

staff corps commander and D.S.O. winner in the Italian cam-

paign. "We are fighting two hundred

million Slavs. It's your battle as

well as ours."

For the Greek this is real war.

For the rest of the world it is real

war, too.

Even in the bitterness of this winter fighting in the snow-covered mountains you hear laughter and song, signs of the irrepressible Greek spirit.

But beneath it all there is grim purpose and hatred of the enemy. In this war there is bullet against bullet, knife against knife, shell against shell. There is also something else.

Mixed up with the military traffic along the road there are little groups of men, women, and children. They shiver in the bitter cold. Some of them have ragged bundles tied together with frayed strings—the sum of their worldly possessions.

"What happened to you?" you ask one group.

At first they are shy. Then one man speaks up, then all begin to press round, babbling out their tale.

"The guerrillas came to our village," they say, "and they have burned it down. There is nowhere for us to lay our heads. They have taken from us our beasts of burden, the sheep that browsed in our valleys, and our stocks of food. Why did they do that?" you ask.

They shrug, their shoulders. "Maybe because our young men who have the strength to fight were unwilling and, turning their backs, fled."

Another group will cluster round. "They burned the house of Stephanos Janou. They put his wife and three little children inside and roasted them alive. Stephanos was a member of our Home Guard; he had a rifle."

Another said: "We fled in terror. Guerrillas brought back three of our young men who had been forcibly conscripted to their army and who had tried to escape. Before our eyes they beat them the whole day until the going down of the sun, and beneath the moon they kicked their lives away with the heels of their boots."

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well as ours."

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For the rest of the world it is real

war, too.

But their Government will be busy nationalising the splendid ruins. In Rangoon, great roofless buildings still stand as shelters for gardens of weed and twisted

gliders. More than 200,000 homes

have been destroyed in the

dark clouds of Chinese In-

filtration and claims on Burma's

northeastern borders grow heavier. In

Arakan, Dacca, and Comilla

are in control. These are the great

tests awaiting the still untried

Burmese Government.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"Yes, the dresses are longer, but a fellow can't help turning to look at those crazy hats!"

WAY IS OPEN FOR BIG TRADE WITH RUSSIA

by Andrew Rothstein
Formerly the London head of Tass, the Soviet news agency

THE statement announcing an Anglo-Soviet agreement on trade and financial relations contained phrases which did not get much attention from the commentators:

The agreement now reached... constitutes only the first stage in negotiations concerning development of trade between the two countries.

EVERY SATURDAY

WOMANSENSE

FULL-PAGE FEATURE

DESERTED
WIVES**F**EW among the general public realise the hard lot of the deserted wife.

It is true that the law gives her certain rights. Thus a magistrates' domestic court can award her weekly sums to be paid by the husband, up to £2 and an additional ten shillings for each child.

Such an order can be made in cases of desertion, persistent cruelty, wilful refusal to maintain the home and adultery.

Of course, these amounts are too low; the recent report of the Denning Committee has recommended a substantial increase. Such an increase has long been overdue; the £2 was fixed in 1895 and the 10s. in 1920.

The cost of living has soared since then and the fact that despite repeated appeals from the Magistrates' Association, these sums have not been raised is no credit to successive Home Secretaries.

Fresh Trouble

BUT the making of an order by a court is only too frequently the beginning of fresh trouble. So is the making of a voluntary deed of separation by the parties without resorting to a court. For there is no certainty, and there can be none, that the money will be regularly paid.

This aspect of matrimonial trouble has received too little attention. I have often seen wives leave a domestic court with a look of triumph on their faces; they have got their orders. But I have equally often wondered whether they really have any idea of the fresh troubles that these orders will bring to them. I doubt if any cases that magistrates have to deal with are more pathetic than cases where wives come to court seeking the payment of arrears on these orders.

No action can be taken by the wife until the arrears have amounted to two weeks' money. Then there has to be delay while the summons is being served upon the husband.

All this time the wife may be without money from the husband. This fact alone causes acute distress in many cases. I have seen women in tears when they learn that there is still no money for them.

The summons may not have been served; perhaps the husband has moved, or even changed his name. Or he may be genuinely unable to pay. Or he may be living with another woman and have children by her. Or he may just be delinquent in his refusal to pay.

Whatever the reason, the wife's lot is then a hard one.

If, when the husband is in court, it is found that he is guilty of wilfully refusing to pay or that his failure to pay was "culpable," he may be sent to prison. But though that may sometimes give temporary satisfaction to the wife, it produces no money for her.

Account Bare

OFTEN a wife in this situation is on Poor Law relief and is being pressed to get some money from her husband. In such cases one can understand if she feels that she is between the devil and the deep blue sea.

Week by week many wives whose orders are not being paid spend their pennies on bus or tram rides to the court, only to be told by the ever-courteous clerks in what is called the Periodical Payments Department that her account is bare.

Many wives who have divorced their husbands are in an even worse plight. For no court other than the High Court can enforce maintenance payments ordered by the High Court.

To wage-earners' wives the High Court is almost as far away as Heaven.

This is one of the evils that the Denning Committee propose to put right. Unfortunately the solution that they have proposed must prove abortive.

by CLAUD
MULLINSformer Metropolitan
magistrate

end of the almost inevitable hardships to the children.

Sometimes wife and husband have asked for time to think things over. When this happens the probation officers (or court friends, as I prefer to call them for matrimonial work) do all they can to help the parties, often with great success. But many wives or husbands persisted and possibly passed into the sorry ranks of those who find bitter trouble when orders of the court are not carried out. Some wives seem to think that an order of their husbands is like one on the Bank of England.

The bedrock fact is that no wage-earner who has children by his marriage is in a position to maintain two homes; and nowadays there is scarcely a man in the kingdom who is able to indulge in this folly and at the same time do justice to all those who have a right to be maintained by him.

Our wage system, like so much in this world, is based on monogamy, the union for life of a husband and a wife.

Still Hope

ALL that I have written here points to the pressing need that social help should be available for all husbands and wives whose marriages threaten to break up, whether the grim prospect is divorce in the High Court or separation in a magistrate's court.

The report of the Denning Committee contains these words: "The prospects of reconciliation are much more favourable in the early stages of marital disharmony than in the later stages. At that stage both parties are likely to be willing to co-operate in an effort to save the marriage."

This is perfectly true. But even just before the breaking point there is still hope and husbands and wives would be wise to seek help from a probation officer or from a marriage guidance organisation.

Life after separation or divorce can be so sordid and difficult. It should never be faced until help has been obtained and proved unable to bring about a healing.

Lone Husbands

THE unhappy lot of separated husbands must not be ignored. Some of them fully deserve all that comes to them. So do some of the wives.

But many of these husbands are quite decent men. Whatever their merits, they cannot enjoy being brought to court from time to time in order that their means may be investigated.

I have often seen a worn-out look on their faces, an expression that told that life is too hard for them. But I have far more often seen this in the faces of wives.

With some of these husbands it is necessary, especially with those who seem to prefer any kind of life to hard and honest work. And there are more of these men than the politicians care to think about.

Hardships

WHEN dealing with these cases of arrears, I have often wondered whether when these marriages were breaking, the parties ever thought of the awful troubles that can follow after an order of a court.

I have frequently warned the parties of the hardships of life apart,

I WISH MEN WOULDN'T be too clever about not being overcharged on the bill...

...WOULDN'T sit in two seats when they've only paid for one...

...WOULDN'T block out my view of the screen by letting my hearts rule their heads...

I WISH MEN WOULDN'T say "For heaven's sake don't doll yourself up" and devote their time to the girl who has...

LAST-MINUTE

Invitations to parties may put a strain on the wardrobe.

Quick and successful last-minute outfit (1) is a print summer frock worn over a black evening skirt—or any evening dress old enough for dyeing—and gathered, front or back, in a bustle effect over the hips.

Above are New Look alternatives for the strapless evening gown. The bodice (2) is bordered with fur; you can buy real or imitation fur strips at most big stores. Worn with the strapless decolletage (3) is

a stole of black net lightly sewn with sequins or fine beads.

Below are two jackets that will turn an old evening dress into an up-to-date dinner dress. The snug little basqued jacket (4) can be quilted out of an old frock, or material ready quilted can be bought by the yard. A quilted bedjacket dyed black and embroidered could be used as an evening jacket. Uncoupled felt is used for the brief three-quarter sleeved bolero (5), in a bright colour braided in black, or black felt braided in gold or silver. A simple scroll pattern, as sketched, can give the effect of a yoke and is the easiest to carry out.

PROMPTED by the sketches of the things "I wish women wouldn't do . . ." readers have provided the ammunition for this answer. They've called them...

MANimosity

by ROBB

...WOULDN'T sit in two seats when they've only paid for one...

...WOULDN'T block out my view of the screen by letting my hearts rule their heads...

I WISH MEN WOULDN'T say "For heaven's sake don't doll yourself up" and devote their time to the girl who has...

Omelette Variations

A VARIETY of omelettes may be made using the plain method and the same proportion of eggs and butter, with additional ingredients, all of which excepting herbs, must be cooked before they are added.

These ingredients are added (a) either to the beaten eggs previous to cooking the omelette; (b) or as a filling after it is cooked.

BRAINS OMELETTE

Cut one set skinned cooked lamb or sheep brains into small pieces, and saute in a dessertspoon heated butter for a few minutes. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup thick white sauce. Season with salt, pepper, a dessertspoon chopped parsley, and add it to a plain omelette mixture as it sets in the pan. Fold over or roll the mixture, and serve as plain omelette.

KIDNEY OMELETTE

Wash and dry a soaked lamb or sheep kidney. Remove the skin and core, cut kidney into dice, and saute in a dessertspoon heated butter for 10 to 12 minutes. Season with salt, pepper, a pinch of mustard, grated nutmeg, and 1 teaspoon chopped parsley. Prepare a plain omelette, and place the hot kidney mixture in the centre of the egg mixture, then fold over or roll it up. Brown for a few seconds, and serve on a hot dish garnished with parsley sprigs.

SAVORY OMELETTE

Add 1 teaspoon finely powdered mixed sweet herbs, 1 teaspoon chopped parsley, salt and pepper, or a little celery salt, to the beaten eggs, or sprinkle the herbs over the surface of the beaten egg mixture while it is cooking.

HAM OMELETTE

Mince or finely chop 2 ounces cooked ham and sprinkle over the surface while the omelette is cooking.

Mothers in Factories? No!

THE ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER
SPEAKS ON THE NEED OF WOMEN IN THE HOME

WHAT is this crisis? Fuel? Power? Finance? Weather? No. These are serious and annoying, but the crisis is that morality and family life in England are endangered.

Why do I say this? There is little or no religion among thousands of the people of this country. By this I do not mean that there is no religious sense. The heart of man is restless without God. But, for many years our clever people have been saying that it does not matter what we believe; it does not matter whether we worship God; religious beliefs, they say, are subject to constant change.

Many of the nation's children have been brought up without any knowledge of Christ our Lord. It is impossible to have a religion without a creed, and without a creed it is impossible to have a moral code.

During Lent we think of the sufferings and death on the Cross of the Son of God made Man. The Crucifixion shocked His disciples and shocked the world. It was meant to shock and revolutionise a world which had rejected God for Mammon. During Lent we should devote ourselves to revising our relations with God. It is a time to bring God back into every detail of our daily life and action. In brief, to live for Him.

Now, if we abandon God and religion, we become less than human. We become beasts.

This is no exaggeration. The crimes committed by Nazis in concentration camps, and many crimes still being committed in Eastern Europe are inhuman and

children will become little pagans or good Christians, and if good Christians, then good citizens filled with ideals of service for others."

THE good mother at home performs a more valuable and more important service than the statesman or the miner or the bricklayer. Her work is unspectacular so that all too often it passes without notice. But to a large extent the mothers of England have it in their power to build up Christian family life, to close the divorce court and stem juvenile delinquency.

I notice particularly the call to women to re-enter industry. I hope that this does not mean an invitation to mothers to go to work and to abandon the care of home and children. It is this crisis of woman-power in which I am especially interested. The finest contribution a mother can make both to God and to the nation is the care and upbringing of her children. Motherhood is not only woman's natural vocation, it is her finest vocation.

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A mother's contribution in this crisis and in all future crises is the care she has of her home, her husband and her children. It depends upon her whether there is love, warmth, friendliness and cleanliness in the home.

Above all, it will depend upon the mother whether God reigns in that home and whether her

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OLD SOUTH Towlettes
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Union Bldg., H.K.

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Phillips' Milk of Magnesia holds a place of first importance as a corrective aid. It quickly alkalinizes the harmful stomach acids. It acts as a gentle laxative. It tones up your entire digestive system.

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PHILLIPS MILK OF MAGNESIA

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE
ASSOCIATION & BRIGADEANNUAL BALL
at the
HONGKONG HOTEL
Wednesday, January 28
at 8 p.m.Under the Distinguished Patronage
of His Excellency the Governor
and Lady Grantham

Tickets may be obtained at the Hongkong Hotel Reception Desk and tables booked upon production of tickets.

Please Book Early

1-Minute Mask . . . gives your skin a lighter, smoother look!

Before you go out—always a 1-Minute Mask! Cover face, all but eyes, with Pond's Vanishing Cream. Its "keratolytic" action dissolves off tiny roughnesses, clinging dirt particles.



After one full minute, wipe off the Mask and see the results! Your skin looks lighter, clearer. It feels so much softer!



Mrs. JOHN A. BOOSVILLE says, "After a Mask, my skin looks clearer, finer-textured . . . feels smoother! Make-up goes on perfectly!"

Always before make-up, smooth on a light film of Pond's Vanishing Cream and leave it on.

It's a Heavenly Powder Base, too!

Trade inquiries to . . . L. D. SEYOUR & CO., Inc.
43 French Bank Building, Hong Kong.

PAUL HOLT

Thinking Aloud

I WAS delighted, only the other day, to accept an invitation from Harry the Mole to go racing. It was all done in style.

Harry had hired one of those Motoring School "L" cars (Basic Sufferers: Brush Up On Your Driving!), and Harry's cheerful girl friend, Marie Perhaps, sat in the back seat with me and put a rug over my knees in a most friendly fashion. We had a bottle or two of Chateau Yquem, a venison party in the boot, and a good thing for the third race.

What could have been better?

By the time our good thing in the third had walked it home (we knew that the favourite was going to have a go for the National and therefore wasn't trying now, so as not to incur a penalty) we were in a fairly merry mood. Rudy Sambu was there and Jo-Jo Likewise, and they had a flask and a good thing for the last race.

Then things began to happen.

The loudspeaker announced an objection to our winner. Quick as a flash Harry and Jo-Jo began scurrying around shouting to retrieve discarded tote place tickets. (I remember it was Harry, the Master Mind, who thought of picking up tickets on the fourth horse, nobody else having reasoned that this animal would now come into place money).

Marie Perhaps, who leathers stooping in a two-way stretch, led me to the bar, where Ivy gave us two large Scotches in honour of her birthday. Just then the loudspeaker announced that a certain citizen racegoer had dropped a roll of folding money, and would the finder return it to the clerk of the course.

Thus, as you can imagine, aroused a considerable burst of mirth—in which Mickey, the course detective, generally joined.

But Harry did not laugh; the eyes of the Mole were shining. I saw him whisper to Rudy and Jo-Jo and they went.

Working really hard, they had collected, by gaining the confidence of many trusting citizens, as much as £100 in five minutes. And when they went to the clerk of the course, guess what—there was a dear old widow woman waiting; there to claim it.

Harry and Jo-Jo and Rudy were all congratulated on their honesty, while Marie and I had another little drink.

HERE came the tricky bit, but Harry managed it superbly. Within another fine minutes the old widow woman, tears streaming down her wrinkled cheeks in great ripples, beaks, burns and tarts of gratitude, had consented to put the whole roll on our sure thing for the last race. The winnings were all to go to her son, just invalided out of the Navy.

She insisted on putting the money on herself, standing there in the queue quite alone, brave but forlorn as you might say.

I heard Harry insisting that he should collect her winnings for her. This was so like Harry.

Mickey, the detective, was keeping a very close eye on this, and I could see that all this philanthropy was bothering him no end. The last race began.

It was wonderful. There was our animal right out in front and leaping like Caughoo. He was up to the last obstacle when the others were at the distance.

And then...he refused. We might have known it. A clever horse. He stood there patiently until the second passed the post.

Harry was so mortified he did not even try to find the old lady, I remember wondering, on the way home, whether she really had lost her roll and whether she really had put the roll Harry had rustled up for her on that stone ginger for the last race.

I remember wondering, too, whether she really was a widow woman at all.

There was a curious little smile on Mickey the detective's face when we said goodnight to him.

On the way home Marie Perhaps and I snuggled up aw sang "Now Is the Hour" together. Harry the Mole, I thought, was a little quiet. At last he spoke. "I think I've been rabid," he said dolefully.

R.S.P.C.A. note

A GIRL I know worked on the A land throughout the war. She lived in a shed with a coke stove for heating, and she fetched water for washing from the pump and heated it on the stove.

The other day she went back to the farm and, for sentiment's sake, walked down the lane to her little shed. There were electric light and electric heating. There were running water and a fan, a wider window, and a real lock on the door.

"Lucky girl," said my friend. "This is a cowshed now," said the farmer jovially. "Move over, Daisy," said my friend.

What is the result? They prepare us for the sort of war they won. They look back instead of forward.



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WAS ANYTHING EVER MORE GILBERTIAN?

—By "Candidus"—

I HAVE purposely refrained from commenting upon the Kowloon City affair, because I believed that with the passing of days, the Chinese Government would appreciate the utter foolishness of allowing lawlessness to assume an interpretation of legality. I had expected the good sense of China's statesmen to indicate in an uncertain terms that the defiance of the laws of a friendly state, by irresponsible Chinese agitators, could not be tolerated. Like many others of all nationalities, I am disappointed. The absurdity of the affair! That it should be invested with a pseudo-national importance is by no means flattering to Chinese officialdom.

One is forced to the conclusion that there is more behind the scene than the world knows, and that China is either unable or unwilling to rebuke those who refuse to conform to international ethics. There are so many contradictory aspects which support the above conclusion.

In his book, "Singapore and After," Lord Strabolgi reveals that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek offered to send us ten divisions of trained soldiers to hold the Kowloon mainland against the Japanese, (unfortunately, we had to arm them, and at the time were unable to do so). Of course, I am accepting Lord Strabolgi's word that the offer was made. Here was an offer to assist in the retention of Hongkong, China doubtless preferring to see the British flag in preference to the Rising Sun of Japan. There was no silly quibble in those days as to the rights of jurisdiction over Kowloon City; and, moreover, there never has been in the history of the Colony.

I SPEAK with a very close regard for China and things Chinese, and it is because of this regard that I am horrified that such a scene as was witnessed on Shamoun could have been possible. The subversive and lawless rabble had their day, and their own temporary and empty triumph merely shamed a nation so very recently elevated to the position of one of the five big powers of the world. What can the world think?

It is unbelievable that the Chinese Government, if it really has the well-being of its great country at heart, can tolerate insults to a friendly power. Do the many friendly hands held out mean nothing? Unfortunately, during the last two years we have witnessed so many unexplainable actions which seem deliberately calculated to spurn foreign friendship, and yet it is too obviously unwise for China to develop a policy of selfishness and isolation.

Tolerance and respect are attributes mutually desirable in the conduct of international affairs today, and yet these two words appear to have no meaning in some quarters. To inflame students and to incite them to violence is a major crime, and yet we see various youth organisations turning young people away from their studies to join lawless agitators. Little can these youths know the incalculable harm they do to their country at the behest of those who prefer chaos to order. It is saddening to feel that China cannot keep her house in order, cannot even control her students, or prevent them from becoming the pawns of the agents of economic and political destruction.

It is a sorry day for China when General Marshall gave up his hope of assisting in the sorely needed rehabilitation after the war had reaped its harvest.

As for the Air Force, it is a young man's Service, and it should be shaped and controlled by young men.

The average age of the military members of the Army Council today is 53, headed by Lord Montgomery, who is 60.

All have rendered the nation great service, but the time has come when they should now be demobilised gracefully with the men they led so well. They are too old dogs to learn new tricks.

As for the Air Force, it is a young man's Service, and it should be shaped and controlled by young men.

The record of all of them is shot with gleams of glory. Tedder at their head, have an average age in the early fifties, which for airmen is hoary old age.

PERIL AHEAD
If they don't go

THE changes in the methods of air warfare may well be the most tremendous of all.

The bomber and fighter technique of the last war is a thing of the past. Even the human pilot may be finished.

If we are content to let the Air Force be run by men who are at the age when men inevitably tend to look backwards, instead of by young men peering restlessly into the future, there is peril ahead for us.

Don't let us repeat the follies of the past. Let us get rid of the old men in all the Services. Hang the laurels about their necks. Treat them with dignity, consideration and even generosity.

But for the sake of our sons, get rid of them quickly.

MANY people cannot appreciate the Kowloon City question in its proper perspective or true significance. Many probably think of a city equal to any of the world's smaller cities. Little do they realise that the total area of land, plus—whatever bricks and mortar which may compose the "city," would, if valued, probably not reach one tenth of the price of the Empire State Building in New York, or any other sizable building in any other country. Its inestimable value to Hongkong is, at the most, a few hundred Hongkong dollars per month—and yet, this very insignificant little backyard has assumed an importance of the first magnitude. Was anything ever more Gilbertian?

I should like to see a commission appointed by the United Nations sent out to investigate the "great crisis" and to know that their terms of reference made it necessary for them to hold their sessions in Kowloon City. I should like to accompany them on their first visit to the little squalid patch termed a "city" and then observe their utter confusion and bewilderment when they arrive on the scene.

DAVID LANGDON CARTOON



"Strooter says: 'Fairies at the bottom of your garden—spray with D.D.T.'"

—But what a silly time to start a year, anyway!

A BOUT this time of year you may have noticed a general tendency to put the date wrong on letters and cheques—a silent protest, perhaps, at starting a new year in the dead of winter.

When you come to think of it, why should the new year begin in January? It isn't natural. There is nothing holy or auspicious about it. The sun, moon and stars are not in any particular juxtaposition. It isn't even a particularly nice month.

Now if the new year began on December 21 there might be some point to it, because that is the shortest day. Or, better still, March 21, because that is the spring equinox when, for the first time since the autumn, the day is as long as the night. But the only thing that distinguishes January 1 from any other winter day is the number of Scotsmen with hangovers.

At one time the new year did begin in March. That's how September got its name (Latin—Septem, for seven). October, November and December were named in the same way (Latin: octo, 8; novem, 9; decem, 10).

Extra months

THAT was in the old Roman calendar, which had only ten months or moons. It didn't work well, because ten lunar months make 295 days and the solar year has a little over 365 days.

So the Romans invented January and February and tacked them on after December to make the year nearer to the right length.

January was named after the twin pagan gods Janus and Janus. They were peaceful fellows, and it was hoped that their presence in the calendar would offset the warlike influence of Mars, who had given his name and some of his habits to March.

Nobody really knows how January got switched from 11th May to 10th May.

The Jewish year can be any one of six different lengths, three of them shorter than ours and three of them longer.

Chinese years run in cycles of 60, and instead of being numbered each one has its name. Here are 12 of them: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, fowl, monkey, dog, pig.

India has 14 calendars, all of them different. The Moslem year is 11 days shorter than ours, which means they gain a year on us in every 32, and you can become a centenarian at 97.

All these different calendars, and many others that have been forgotten, are the attempts of man to work out a sum that is next to impossible.

The problem is now to fit a day into month and the two of them into a year. A lunar month is 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes and 3.3 seconds long, and a solar year is 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46.2 seconds.

When Julius Caesar reformed one calendar, dates were so out of hand that people were celebrating midsummer night in the winter. He put things on an even keel by ordering a special year of 445 days—the Year of Confusion it was called—and instituting leap year.

Gregory's plan

A LEAP year in every four would be all right if the year was exactly 365 1/4 days long, which Caesar thought it to be. But it isn't. It is 11 minutes 13.8 seconds shorter than that. In a hundred years this adds up to nearly 10 hours and by the 10th century it had accumulated to ten whole days.

Augustus Caesar cancelled leap year for eight years, and so put it right, and then, like Julius, claimed his reward by naming one of the months after himself. Hence August.

A question of protocol arose over August. At the time had only 30 days to July's 31. August didn't care, for another Caesar having a longer month than he, so he took a day from September and added it to August, thus putting millions of pounds into the pockets of those sensible ladies who charge more in August than they do in September. There ought to be a bust up on every boarding-house manager.

Of course, there are plenty of other new years besides ours. The Jews have had theirs. It was on September 15. The Chinese have to wait till February 10, Hindus till

the final stage of the last war the technique of war suddenly changed fundamentally.

Armies, air forces and navies as we know them today are now largely obsolete. The war of the future will be an affair of scientists and chemists—not of soldiers, sailors and airmen as we have known them.

The future fighting force may have to be shaped not in the Admiralty, the War Office, or the Air Ministry but in the universities, the laboratories, and the technical colleges.

We may indeed have reached the day when we must choose for the Board of Admiralty, the Army Council, and the Air Council men with degrees for scientific knowledge rather than men with decorations for bravery.

We must be ready to begin the next war with "Bombers" in control, not "Blimps."

It is the scientists who will find an answer to the atomic menace, not the soldier. It is the scientist who will in turn pass from defence to offence again, not the admiral, the general, and the air-marshal trained on the old drill books.

A scientific fighting force is our only insurance against war, and our only security in it.

TOO OLD DOGS To learn new tricks

MOST of our admirals today are approaching 60 years of age or over, led by the First Sea Lord, Sir John Cunningham, aged 62.

A man who died for the lust of Gold



Sir Edward Marshall Hall

And the strange part
Number 13 played
in his fate

by A. E. BOWKER



Mr. Justice Birkett

This is the first of a fascinating new series telling the story of two of the greatest counsel of this century—the late SIR EDWARD MARSHALL HALL, K.C., and SIR NORMAN BIRKETT, famous in history as a judge of the court which tried the leading Nazis at Nuremberg.

Mr. A. E. BOWKER, the author, was clerk to both men in the heyday of their fame, and was behind the scenes with them through the dramatic days.

THE first big murder case in which I was concerned with Sir Edward Marshall Hall was a crime carried out by a scoundrel whose lust for gold was the one governing influence of his life. The medium of death was poisoning, and the chief actor was Frederick Henry Seddon.

I say the chief actor, for there was another person in the dock beside him—his unhappy wife, Margaret Seddon, who was acquitted.

They were jointly tried for the murder of Miss Eliza Mary Barrow on September 14, 1911.

I was in my room one afternoon when the telephone bell rang and a voice said: "My name is Saint, solicitor, of — (mentioning a North London address). I would like to call and see you with regard to the defence of Seddon."

I made an appointment with Mr Saint, who called upon me in chambers.

He told me the strength and weakness of the case, and we agreed upon the fee.

In due course Seddon was sent for trial at the Old Bailey.

In the meantime, I had seen something of what hard work went on in a murder case where poison was the cause of death.



Mr. A. E. Bowker

I had seen Marshall Hall reading up every detail of previous poisoning cases, especially where arsenic had been used.

Now was he without the assistance of expert toxicologists, for he had many, many medical friends, and could always rely on their expert aid no matter what the cause of death might be.

What is more, he had a pretty good knowledge of forensic medicine and poisoning himself; so that when it came to questioning and cross-examining expert witnesses there was a willingness and assurance that showed he had mastered every detail of the subject.

Seddon was an insurance agent living at Tollington Park, Holloway. Miss Eliza Barrow was a spinster who went to live with Seddon and his wife, taking with her a little orphan boy named Grant.

When she first went to live there Miss Barrow was worth about £4,000.

Some of her money was invested in leasehold property—a public-house and a barber's shop—and a fair amount was in gold and notes. This was in July 1910.

By September 1911, when she died, all that was left of her possessions were about £10 in cash, and a few odds and ends of personal belongings, probably worth about £15 or £20.

The rest had all passed into the hands of Seddon; stocks, shares, leases, money, and everything else had been "made over" to Seddon by Miss Barrow. True, he had given her a document in return promising her an annuity of £72, with a further £1 a week for the leases mentioned. But she had not lived long to enjoy her annuity.

It was this, together with the purchase of fly-papers containing arsenic, which provided the prosecution with both the motive for and the medium of the crime.

SEDDON'S ERROR

Of Seddon's cupidity there can be no doubt, for on the day of Miss Barrow's death he went to the undertaker, told him that all that was left to pay the funeral expenses and the doctor's fee was £4 10s.

He bargained with the undertaker, had his lodger buried in a pauper's grave, and took £2s. 6d. by way of commission on the deal.

Another fatal mistake he made was to refrain from telling Miss Barrow's relatives of her death, and it was not till September 20, four days after the funeral on the 16th, that the Vonderahes, her cousins, knew that Miss Barrow was dead.

Even so they did not learn it from Seddon, although Seddon declared that he had written on the 14th. That letter was never received.

Naturally Mr Vonderahes tried to see Seddon, but the latter had gone for a holiday, and it was not until October that the two men met and the cousin's suspicions were aroused.

He notified the authorities, and inquiries were made.

BODY EXHUMED

As a result of the information laid by Mr Vonderahes, the body of Miss Barrow was exhumed, the organs submitted to examination by Dr Spilsbury and Dr Willcox, and Mr and Mrs Seddon were arrested.

It had been discovered that Mrs Seddon had been in the habit of changing five-pound notes for sovereigns at various shops, at times signing them with a false name.

Needless to say, it was on the medical evidence that Marshall Hall concentrated the heavy guns of his cross-examination.

At times he put a question which brought an admission that one witness "did not know." As for example, when cross-examining Dr Spilsbury, he asked:—

"Is it a scientific fact that if there is any poison in the body at the time of burial it does not matter how you bury the body there is a tendency for that poison to gravitate to the left side?"

"I did not know that," was the reply.

"You yourself did not make any of the tests; you were telling us what Dr Willcox told you?"

They are Dr Willcox's figures."

A BAD WITNESS

Or, as in the case of the cross-examination of Dr Willcox.

"Now, supposing a person was taking large, but safe, medicinal doses continuously for a period extending over months, and even possibly a year, that would not necessarily produce arsenical poisoning?"

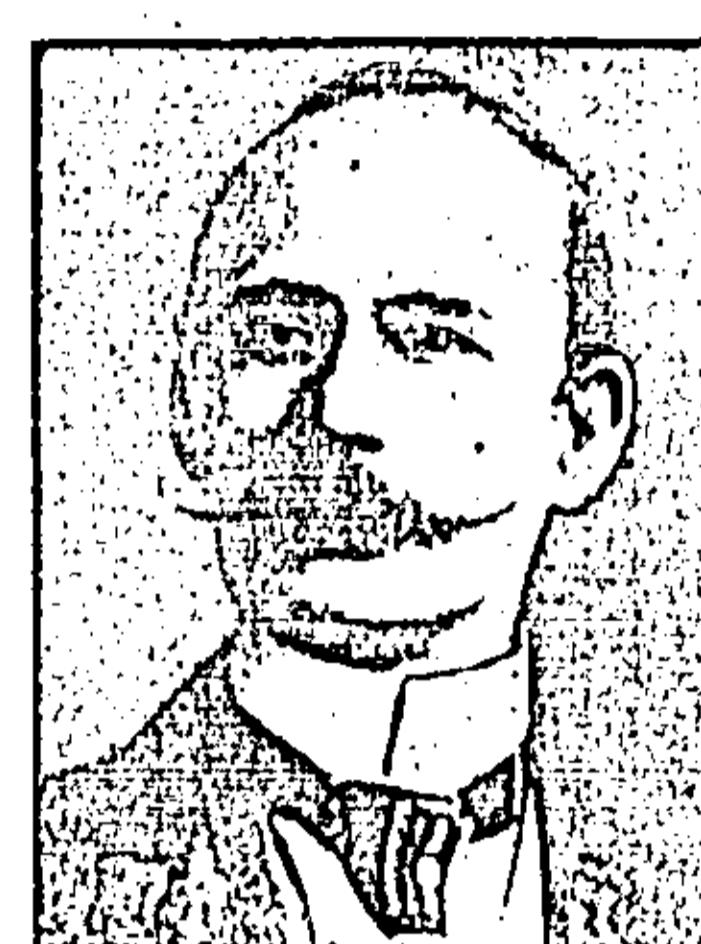
"No, not necessarily. It would depend upon the patient."

Had the case against Seddon depended entirely on the medical evidence, I have always felt that Marshall Hall would have secured an acquittal by the very daring and skilful manner in which he handled the expert witnesses.

But it did not. There was a wealth of circumstantial evidence, ably marshalled and put in the scales against him.

Then there was Seddon himself! A bad witness in spite of his gift of phrasing and ready answer.

He was too ready, too facile, and was not long before the deadly inclusive cross-examination wrong from him the admissions that proved his guilt.



Seddon

So, in spite of the magnificent work done by Marshall Hall, and his brilliant closing speech, lasting over four hours, the Jury found Seddon guilty, acquitting his unhappy wife, who, as the evidence showed, was little more than a domestic servant in the Seddon home, thoroughly under the domination of her husband.

CLOSING SCENE

The closing scene was more tensely dramatic than any I have ever witnessed.

How often when the Clerk of the Arraignment addresses the prisoner, "A or B, you stand convicted of wilful murder, have you anything to say why the court should not give you judgment of death according to law?" does one hear a few numb words, or even nothing, at all—perhaps only a shrug of the shoulders, is seen?

Not Seddon! There was something of the exhibitionist about this man, as there so often is about murderers.

Already his wife had heard the words "Not Guilty."

Before she left the dock Seddon had swept across to her, took her in his arms, and kissed her.

Now it was his turn, and he faced the judge—Mr Justice Bucknill—calm and undaunted. In fact, the condemned man was cooler than the judge himself.

At the end of the Clerk's question Seddon replied firmly, "I have, sir."

He was sitting just underneath the dock, and it seemed as though Seddon was leaning right over my head.

Half bent over the front of the dock, he addressed the judge in measured tones, putting forward his arguments, lucidly and logically, criticising the evidence, and even the judge on one occasion.

"I should like to mention, my lord," he said, "that in your summing-up you said there was a time when the wife left me in the room when the will was being prepared."

"I have never been in Miss Barrow's room alone from September 1 till the day of her death."

THE JUDGE

His speech seemed to go on and on for ages, in the highly drawn atmosphere of that closely packed court.

It ended on the amazing high pitch of drama which has been so widely written about.

It was just as he declared that the prosecution had failed to trace "anything to me in the shape of money," which is the great motive suggested by the prosecution in this case, for me to commit this diabolical crime.

"I am not guilty, my lord. If I say more I do not suppose it will make any difference, but if it is the last word I have to speak, I say I am not guilty of the crime for which I stand judged."

Mr Justice Bucknill was deeply affected.

"We both belong to one brotherhood," he said, "but our brotherhood does not encourage crime; it condemns it."

And then—"Try to make peace with your Maker."

"I am at peace," was the prompt, clear answer. Sentence of death was then passed.

The case was taken to the Court of Criminal Appeal, but the appeal was dismissed.

And, in spite of the fact that over 300,000 people signed a petition for reprieve, Seddon was duly hanged.

In Mr Filson Young's admirable book "The Trial of the Seddons" there is an interesting document in the appendix written by Seddon on the eve of his execution.

It shows how the number 13 had been unlucky for him in connection with his case. It begins:

"Miss Barrow came to my house August 1910. Died September 1911. Months 13."

"Took ill September 1. Died September 14. Days 13."

"I arrested December 4. Old Bailey trial March 4. Weeks 13."

"Attended inquest twice. Police court 11 times. Total 13."

"Appealed, heard April 1. (13th week in New Year.) 13."

"Grounds of appeal, 13 points of law on appeal paper made by solicitor, 13."

"Reprieve papers sent in by solicitor, April 13."

"And so it runs on till the last paragraph:

"I made this out on Good Friday, April 5 and found on reflection that it was just 13 days to date fixed for execution, April 18. 13."

He could have added at least one more item to the list:

"Aim to be hanged in 1912. Total 13."

One gets another glimpse of the hypocrisy of this man in the special verse he selected for the memorial card of the dead woman. It reads:

"A dear one is missing and with us no more,

That voice so much loved we hear not again.

Yet we think of you now the same as of yore,

And know you are free from trouble and pain.

After the trial Marshall Hall turned to me in chambers the next day and remarked: "Bowker, I don't think I'll ever take on another murder case. The strain is too great. It takes too much out of one."

I did not say anything, for I knew him well. I knew that he was a born fighter, knew that he could not resist the lure of any case no matter how great the strain.

And I was right!

ON THE TRUTH

Not all the cases which come into chambers are fraught with such suspense and drama. Some have that amusing side.

During a trial at Manchester I had brought home to me how stupid people can be in failing to tell their legal advisers the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

We went down to defend a young man charged with an indecent assault.

The defence was a complete denial of the assault, and an allegation that the girl and her mother were both of bad character.

Marshall Hall was instructed to cross-examine both women as to their character.

This course of action has certain legal consequences in regard to the laws of evidence. If an accused person attacks the character of the other side, he may if he gives evidence, have his character challenged by opposing counsel, and he can be cross-examined on that issue.

Needless to say, therefore, it is essential that counsel conducting a case should, if instructed to attack the other side, be perfectly certain that his own client's character is beyond reproach.

Three times in all he appeared for her on charges of abortion, and three times had she heard the foreman of the jury—after Marshall Hall had made his speech on her behalf—utter the magic words, "Not guilty."

On the first occasion after her acquittal she sent a telegram which reads: "Thank you very much—Daisy."

On the second occasion she wired: "Thank you again—Daisy."

Following her third acquittal the following telegram arrived:

"For the third and last time, thank you—Daisy."

And so far as I know Daisy was never charged again.

NEXT WEEK

The Strange Case of the Vindictive Nurse

(From "Behind the Bar," to be published by Staples Press.)

BY THE WAY

by Beachcomber

Ten million tins of snook (pronounced snook) will be on sale next spring. It tastes like hake. (News item.)

alternatively, making no noses grow where one grew before.

Old days in Ahahaland

WHEN the Ahahas go out to fight they wear their peaked hats back to front, so that the enemy will think they are retreating. They stamp on their shields to make a terrifying noise, and while they are stamping on them the spears of the enemy find their bodies unprotected. When they wish to outflank the opposing forces, they pretend to be going in the opposite direction. This is done by ordering the outflankers to set up a yelling and to point with their spears in the direction they wish to appear to be taking. Those who are not of the outflanking party pretend to be going away, with much shouting and running. When they camp for the night they light enormous fires behind them, which they put out immediately, to convince the enemy that they decided to stay, but then went away. What damned fools they are!

Art

THE officials of the National Gallery are, I notice, compelled to confess that the attempts to brighten up the Old Masters have resulted in some pictures gaining or losing features. This explains why Moron's tailor has two noses to Sir Hudson Lowe's none. Advanced artists call this making two noses grow where one grew before—or,

Epitaph

Here lies a vast soprano;

While singing "Leberzurst."

She broke the grand piano, turned purple, and then burst.

If she had sung more gently,

Or in a lower key....

Ask of the winds that far around

With fragments strewed the sea,

• SPORTS FEATURES •

Week-end football will find selectors of Hongkong's Interport team "casting their eyes around for 'Probables' and 'Possibles.' All the senior clubs, with the exception of Kowloon Motor Buses are in action again this week-end; some after a fortnight's rest from competitive soccer.

At Soakunpoo tomorrow afternoon 25th RA meet Kitchee again. These two elevens met in the second round of the Senior Shield competition on the same ground last Saturday. Other attractive week-end matches are the first meetings of the Buffs and St Joseph's (Navy Ground this afternoon) and of Sing Tao and the RAF (Club Ground tomorrow).

Navy Were Given A Nasty Fright In Junior Shield

(BY "SEE TEE")

The draw for the semi-final rounds of the Senior and Junior Shield knock-out competitions, which was made on Tuesday evening, produced four fairly good ties. In each section, however, there is strong indication that the holders will retain their trophies. Sing Tao are strong favourites for the senior shield, just as the Navy's "B" team should again win the junior trophy.

The sailors' equanimity was much upset in their second round tie with Taikoo last Saturday afternoon. They took the field flushed with confidence born of a 5-0 victory over the Taikoo men on the previous Sunday. That imponderable, cup-the football, however, nearly wiped their name off the junior shield for this season. The Navy took the lead after about ten minutes but held it no more than two minutes. Early in the second half Taikoo snatched a goal to give them the lead. The rest of that half was a period of harrowing anxiety for the Navy men. They pinned Taikoo down but they could not kill them. They did anything but score until four minutes from time. One more goal during extra time carried the sailors to victory, although the electric breakaways of the Taikoo forwards were dangerous to the very end.

I went to see the senior shield tie between 25th RA and Kitchee at Soakunpoo last Saturday. Before this game started I watched the rugger match, Navy v. RAF & Police, and I also saw a little of the stirring struggle rugger battle between the Club and the Army.

On a sunny afternoon there is no finer sports ground in the Colony than Soakunpoo. Last Saturday it was perfect, all the more so because the soccer match which I went there especially to see was played in the best possible spirit.

MEET AGAIN TOMORROW

The RA and Kitchee meet again tomorrow. It will be most interesting to see what conclusions the Artillerymen have drawn from last week's team changes. They must remember, however, that Kitchee will most likely have Kwok Ying-kei back in the forward line. He is a marksman of no mean ability. I doubt if he would have missed some of the golden chances which fell to Kitchee forwards in the first half of last Saturday's shield tie. Although we are now in the second

CLUB'S OPPORTUNITY

The Inniskillings beat the Club 3-2 in a thrilling early season, mid-week game on October 9. The Irishmen are a stronger eleven than they are these days; they have suffered many, many team changes in the last three months. The Club will take the field for the return match at Soakunpoo this afternoon hopeful of turning the tables, this time.

Kowloon rivalry will reach a high peak at the Boundary-street ground this afternoon, where Kwong Wah will try to avenge their 1-5 beating by Chinese Athletic.

At Caroline Hill tomorrow afternoon Eastern and the Police come to grips again. The Police had a shaky kick off to their season and were beaten on their own ground by three goals to nothing on October 9.

Despite their heavy defeat by Sing Tao in the shield competition last week, this return match with Eastern should be a good, rousing struggle.

REFEREE TROUBLE

The keeper of the "Players and Officials only" gate at a big midland club ground hurried up to a director and said "The Referee has beaten us with two friends; shall I give them seats?" "Seats?" echoed the director, "By all means. Any referee who has two friends must be looked after."

From here, from there, almost from everywhere you hear abuse of referees. It's so easy and there's little risk of meeting dissent. Here in Hongkong the ailment is spreading a rash. How glad I was to hear that Tuesday's Hongkong FA Council

WINS MILE IN FINE STYLE



Private Thompson of the Buffs, winning the one mile in the Army Inter-Unit Athletic Meeting held at Caroline Hill stadium on Wednesday.

Annual Race Meeting Ends Today

CHAMPIONS IS CHIEF EVENT

The Hongkong Champions is the feature event which will wind up the annual racing carnival at Happy Valley today. On what promises to be a fast course, a keen race is likely to develop between Norse Queen, winner of all the classic events of last year, and Ataman, the 1948 Derby winner.

Norse Queen should have the edge, for she has speed and stamina for the last quarter, as well as a perfect understanding with her Jockey, Donald Black.

Today's card includes eight races confined to non-winners, and ponies worth following are Kentucky Moon, Queen of Hearts, Fluke Shot, Beckenham, Prlority, Big Shot, Spalintia, Shahin, Amigo, Domino, and Donald Fontaine, Arlington. Anyway,

meeting quietly to its proper sub-committee, a question on referees. Here at least is a body with a mind unswayed by sensationalism.

Local football owes a lot to some of its referees. Nevertheless, during the course of this season there have been a few outbursts against them. One, in particular, was directed against one of the best referees in the Colony. Quite clearly it was partisan and indicative of a "little learning."

I did not go to the Club Ground last Saturday where there was "referee trouble." I enjoyed a match at Soakunpoo, where the pleasantness of the place and the afternoon was unsullied by acrimony. Since the matter may be sub judice by the Hongkong FA and I was not there anyway, I will not comment upon it all. Let's leave it to the Referees' Sub-committee, whose duty it is to inquire into such affairs.

I do, however, appeal for balance and proportion in the discussion of such matters. Both these qualities are lacking in foul; who refer to tempers becoming frayed when several first division players exchange blows freely during the course of a match, but who soundly upbraid one referee, when, for all they know, he is no more than temporarily off-colour.



Arctic, Constant Star, Lana, Desert Knight, King of Peace, Ding How, Silber, Mabuhay, Heroic Lassie, Mona Lisa, Strathnamura, Blue Sky, Pearl River and Rite.

DISTANCE EVENTS

In addition to the Champions, there are three other long distance events, one over a mile and a half and two over a mile and a quarter.

In the Hongkong Handicap for "D" Class ponies, Rose Emma (158 lbs) though beaten the last time out by Fifth Alarm (153 lbs) and Peggy (152 lbs) over a mile and a quarter, should be able to take revenge for this time the ponies are more evenly weighted. When beating Rose Emma last time, Fifth Alarm carried a mere 138 lbs, but this has now been increased by 15 lbs. I certainly expect to see the revised weights give the race to Rose Emma.

Placed ponies can come from any of the remaining entries.

The Pearce Memorial Cup, in memory of the late Mr T. E. Pearce, is a mile and a quarter race confined to Subscription ponies of 1948.

LANA TO WIN

I think that Lana which ran second to Dominion Day in the Hopeful Stakes over a mile, will win this event, with Desert Knight and King of Peace as principle competitors.

The All Out Stakes brings the annual meeting to an end, and I cannot see how Blue Sky can fail to win. The pony has speed and stamina and will start with the advantage of being opposed only by non-winners. For the minor positions I suggest Pearl Diver and Rite.

SPORTS DIARY

The following are the principal sports fixtures for the weekend.

TODAY

Football—1st Division

Caroline Hill—S. China v. Navy, 4 p.m.

Navy—Buff v. St Joseph's, 4 p.m. Soakunpoo—Club v. Iniskillings, 4 p.m. Police—Chinese Athletic v. Kwong Wah, 4 p.m.

Second Division "A"

Navy—HOLF v. St Joseph's, 2.30 p.m.

Police—K. Motor Bus v. RAOC, 2.30 p.m.

Second Division "B"

Happy Valley—Electric v. Sing Tao, 2.30 p.m.

Caroline Hill—RAMC v. S. China, 2.30 p.m.

Soakunpoo—REME v. RASC, 2.30 p.m.



Racing

Happy Valley—Fourth and final day of the Hongkong Jockey Club's annual meeting, 12 noon.

Cricket

KCC—KCC v. HKCC, 2 p.m.

HKCC—"A" v. KCC "A", 2 p.m.

Craigengower—CCC v. IRC, 2 p.m.

Soakunpoo—Army v. University, 2 p.m.

King's Park—Navy v. Recreio, 2 p.m.

Rugby

Club—Club v. The Rest, 4.15 p.m.

SUNDAY

Football—1st Division

Soakunpoo—25th RA v. Kitchee, 4 p.m.

Caroline Hill—Eastern v. Police, 4 p.m.

Club—Sing Tao v. RAF, 4 p.m.

Second Division "A"

Soakunpoo—Kitchee v. Police, 2.30 p.m.

Caroline Hill—S. China v. Taikoo, 2.30 p.m.

Navy—Eastern v. Dockyard, 4 p.m.

Navy—Navy v. WD Chinese, 2.30 p.m.

Second Division "B"

Club—Club v. Signals, 2.30 p.m.

Cricket

KCC—KCC v. HKCC, 11 a.m.

King's Park—Dockyard Recreation Club intra-club match, 11 a.m.

Golf

Fanling—America versus The Rest, first match for the "America Cup."

Softball

(See Softball Chatter for full list of weekend league matches.)

Arthur Peal says:

We all know the type of snooker player who will make as sure of the ball as he can even if he leaves nothing after pocketing it. He reckons seven points is more than he can afford to risk for a "bagger."

Soakunpoo—Kitchee v. Police, 2.30 p.m.

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Second Division "B"

Club—Club v. Signals, 2.30 p.m.

Cricket

Wahoos on TOP

Last week's titbit between the two topdogs in the feminine section resulted in the Wahoos getting the better of the Madcap Aces after a good fight. The losers failed to hold the Wahoo females down in the early stages, allowing six runs without reply, which turned out too big an order to nullify. Wahoo fire-works started off in the very first cantus as versatile Irene Castle binged and Patsy Ribeiro slammed a homer for two leading runs. Costly walks, an error here and an error there, mingled with hits, saw four further tallies by the victors. Girle Gane got the Madcaps going in the fourth frame as she beat out a two-bagger, then plifed a third cushion in a wink. Alex Mendonca was next given a "life" and Girle scored. Melville Soares again acquitted herself with willow welding as she slammed a safety to push in Alex.

The Wahoos never relaxed how-

ever. Brand new mentor Hil Winglee had nothing to do with the scene have got something there, I reckon, for after all, if an umpire will want to extend his "social calls" right to the diamond, he hadn't better be there. He is apt to forget to follow the play and may give a decision on the spur of the moment which may turn out to be conspicuously boneheaded. And that may cause lots of trouble. I have seen Doc Molthen, as he was upping, welding a bat to the wall in the saying, "a wall is as good as a hit, and Marge walked no less than six, which told against her. She struck out six against Terry

OBSERVATION POST

Firebrand hot-corner police Girle Gane of the Aces cracked a sizzler of a grounder to cut through the whole defence of the "enemy" and the ball rolled speedily out of the park. That was in a recent game. Then she "whirlwinded" her way round the bases for a home run. But oh no! She must go back to third. Ground rules say: "Ball ... rolling out of the park, batter is entitled to three bases." But surely, it was quite apparent the ball had the whole field beaten and if not for the smallness of the ball park, she could have scored a homer with hours to spare. Perhaps, that particular rule could be amended.

Say, the chief umpire should be called upon to decide if the ball had actually got the better of the fielders and give the runner a home run instead of a three-bagger.... The Association's hard-working General Committee has had meeting after meeting, thrashing out this point and that. And one brought out about and against is fraternising spectators by umpires when a game is in progress. Those "brains" behind the scene have got something there, I reckon, for after all, if an umpire will want to extend his "social calls" right to the diamond, he hadn't better be there. He is apt to forget to follow the play and may give a decision on the spur of the moment which may turn out to be conspicuously boneheaded. And that may cause lots of trouble. I have seen Doc Molthen, as he was upping, welding a bat to the wall in the saying, "a wall is as good as a hit, and Marge walked no less than six, which told against her. She struck out six against Terry

SPORTING SAM

By Reg. Wootton

W. K. SHIEH

Top-Notch Tilt Set For Tomorrow



Blue Ribbon, which won the Chater Cup, ridden by W. K. Shieh, during the annual race meeting, is seen here being led in after the race.—Photo, Mee Cheung.

Softball Chatter By "Spectator"

RECREIO VERSUS ST. JOSEPH'S

To get an idea what actually is the local softball standard, to satisfy a curiosity, to see for oneself—uninfluenced by any ballyhooing of "super-duper" playing and "titanic, dramatic struggles"—and to gather an impression of the point the game has gained in its comparative infancy since its introduction here, the League match between the pick of the teams down for decision tomorrow should provide an eye-opening criterion.

The cream of talent concentrated in the Club de Recreio and St Joseph's, who are sharing the leadership in the championship race, touch off the second round by engaging each other in an anticipated to-the-last-ditch battle. Stan Leonard's Saints suffered their only lapse in first round games by going down to Tony Gonsalves' Rambling Rees, whose solitary defeat was inflicted by the Merry Madcaps.

An unsettled Josephian squad took the field in that opening day fracas against the Rees and succumbed without much of a fight. Tomorrow's return meeting will see now a well-oiled Saint machine comprising mostly colourful veterans who have not "gone old" and can still dish out a brand of classy ball. Their Murderer's Row of Big Chief Saint himself, brother Dave Leonard, Ramon Castro, Jindoo Hussain and Mighty Mite Arturo Ozorio will be going for Ree, hurler Leo Tavares' "hide." However, Leo, who appears to be above most if not all the pitchers playing, may hold those "murderers" at bay; more so, as he is backed by a most reliable field.

Recreio's battering brigade looks weaker but is well-balanced. They are capable of a stratagem or two in this direction to tie the flashy, but temperamental infield which the Saints possess. If big names count at all—they didn't the last time when St Joseph's lost—even on form though, the Leonards should come out with their revenge. On the other hand, Rec. Manager Gons

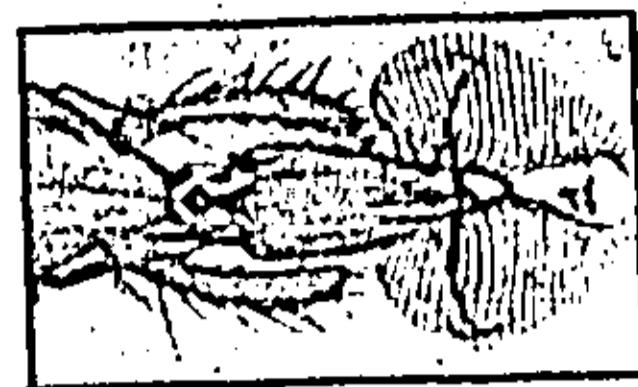
Are You Sure?

Answers on Page 10

1. Where in Britain will you find the grave of one who is famous, though unknown; died abroad, yet is buried among kings?

2. One of these is not a British butterfly—
Red Admiral, Dingby Skipper, Purple Emperor, Buff Orpington, Painted Lady.

3. An aeolian deposit is—
Ticket for a concert, deposit laid down by wind, Greek hire purchase payment?



4. This is part of a—
Crayfish, dredging machine, fly?

5. Held aloft in the right hand of the Statue of Liberty at New York there is a—
Pair of scales, torch, flag, sword?

6. One of these football teams won the League Championship without losing a match—
Aston Villa, Sunderland, Arsenal, Preston, North End, Manchester City.

7. Shakespeare omitted only one of these names from his plays—
Jack, Bill, Davy, Tom, Dick, Harry.

8. The Gunpowder Plot was aimed at the destruction of—
King, Lords, Commons?

9. Can you arrange these ale measures in correct order, smallest to largest—
Kilderkin, barrel, hogshead, firkin?

10. The best man at Princess Elizabeth's wedding was—
Lord Lascelles, Marquess of Milford Haven, Duke of Norfolk?

Murphy's Steak Took The Count

Customs officers at Tilbury seized all but 25lb. of the 300lb. of food which New Zealand boxer Bos Murphy took with him to London.

"It's tough, but I'll manage somehow," Murphy said.

"I have 150lb. of steak coming in another ship, but it looks as if I'll have to cancel that, too."

Murphy went to England to seek a match for the Empire welterweight title.

War Planes Coming On Fast

Here's an up-to-date list of American Service aircraft

By CHARLES CORDDRY
(United Press Aviation Writer)

An almost bewildering range, bomb capacity and speed. There are 133 on order and the first few should be turned over soon to the Air Force.

Consolidated-Vultee B-36—A six-engine giant said to have a 10,000-mile range with five tons of bombs. That is 2½ times the range of the B-29 and 3½ times the bomb load. There are 100 on order.

Northrop B-35 Flying Wing—Said to have a 10,000-mile range with five tons of bombs. Thirteen have been ordered.

North American B-45—Only jet-bomber now in production. The Air Force has ordered 100. It has four jet engines. The Air Force claims it will exceed 400 miles an hour, and carry 11 tons of bombs with about a 2,200-mile range.

Consolidated - Vultee XD-46—Four-jet bomber in the 11-ton, 2,200 to 2,400-mile range, greater than 400 m.p.h. category. Only one built.

Boeing XB-47—Revolutionary experimental bomber having six jet engines, swept-back wings and a speed around 600 miles an hour. Range said to be about 2,000 miles and capacity 11 tons. An experimental contract called for two.

Martin XB-48—Six-jet bomber with bicycle landing gear. Speed about 500 miles an hour. Bomb capacity 11 tons and range about 2,100 miles. Two ordered.

Northrop YB-49—An eight-jet version of the B-35 flying wing. Performance about the same as other jet bombers, but it has more range.

Air Force and Navy Fighters

Lockheed P-80 (Shooting Star) and **Republic P-84 (Thunderjet)**—Combat-ready Air Force jet interceptors. Have fired their guns under simulated combat conditions at more than 500 and 600 miles per hour. Both are mass-production planes.

North American P-82—Conventional propeller long-range escort fighter. Has a twin fuselage and is called the twin-Mustang because of its resemblance to its predecessor, the North American P-51 of war fame. Top speed 475 miles an hour.

Grumman FAF Bearcat and **Chance Vought F-4U-5 Corsair**—Only two propeller-type fighters the Navy now has in production.

McDonnell FH Phantom—A twin-jet plane with speed exceeding 500 miles an hour. Navy's first jet fighter. Carrier groups are being formed.

McDonnell F2H Banshee—A twin-jet, more powerful Navy

brother to the Phantom. Also is in production. Is in the 600-mile-an-hour class.

Chance Vought F4U Pirate—A jet now in production. Said to fly "well over 500 miles per hour."

North American FJ—Fourth Navy jet now in production. Also a 500-mile-an-hour plane.

Experimental Fighters

North American XP-86—A 600-mile-an-hour Air Force fighter. Swept-back wings and range over 1,000 miles. Possible successor to P-80 and P-84.

Curtiss XP-87—The first four-jet fighter plane, recently began ground and taxi tests. Designed as Air Force all-weather fighter.

Grumman XBF—Has a British Nene jet engine interchangeable with an Allison jet. Navy plane.

Chance Vought XF5U Flying Pancake—Propeller-type Navy plane.

XP-88—The first four-jet fighter plane, recently began ground and taxi tests. Designed as Air Force all-weather fighter.

XP-89—Has a British Nene jet engine interchangeable with an Allison jet. Navy plane.

Photo-Reconnaissance Planes

XP-11, built by Howard Hughes—A better than 400-mile-an-hour plane now being tested by Air Force. Two built.

XP-12—A four-engine, 450-mile-an-hour Republic plane for the Air Force. Two built.

FROM HERE & THERE:

"Sinterklaas" In Africa

Johannesburg—Believing that Santa Claus in scarlet and fur and driving a reindeer is out of place in an African summer, Afrikaners here have invented their own Father Christmas. Rechristened Sinterklaas, he appeared at a local school in a beard, a green coat decorated with tinsel, a tall blue hat with an ostrich feather, and brown trousers.

The colours are symbolic of South Africa's blue sky, green veld and brown.

He was accompanied by Mother Christmas in a somewhat similar outfit.

ILLEGAL

Ottawa—Canadian wartime pilots have been approached by Arab sympathizers to fight as volunteers against the Jews in the Holy Land. Several ex-R.C.A.F. fliers have received definite offers but so far none is known to have accepted. Under the Foreign Enlistments Act it is against the law for Canadians to fight in the forces of other countries.

NO WONDER!

Adelaide—A vicious five-foot snake has driven Mrs. Zappelli and her baby out of her five-roomed house near Kalgoorlie, Australia's gold town. The snake attacked the baker, who fought it off with his bread-basket. The snake retired beneath the flooring. It was enticed out later with a saucer of milk, but

retired again before it could be killed. Mrs. Zappelli will not enter the house again until the snake is killed.

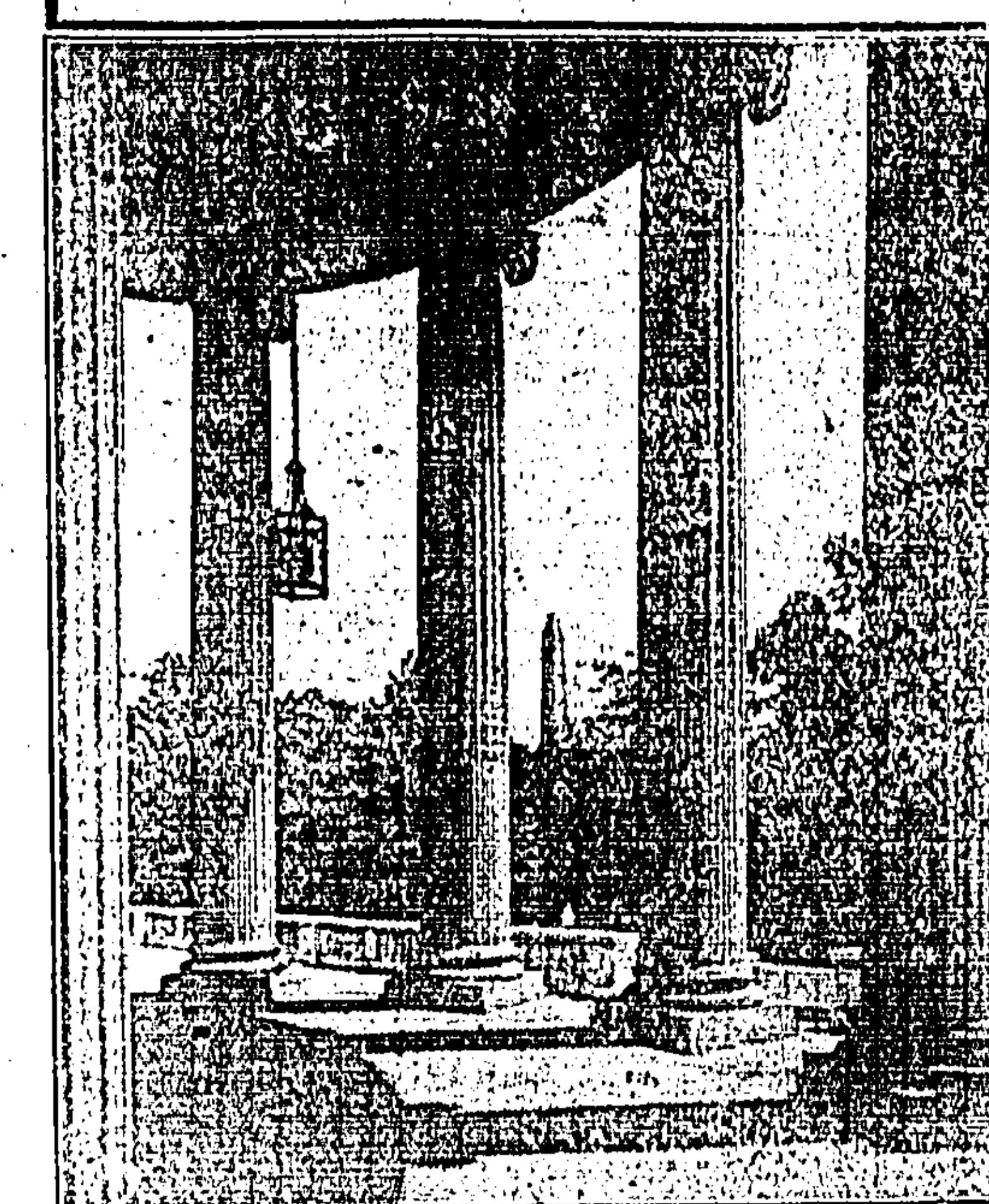
VICTIOUS SHARK

Melbourne—A nine-year-old boy, standing in 10 inches of water, hauling a net for his father—a professional fisherman—at Watsons Bay, the globe of a street lamp is in focus. Still farther away, beyond the trees, the Monument rises and is sharply defined. The lens opening used was f. 22.

MYSTERY HIPPO
Johannesburg—How did the hippopotamus turn round? This is the question puzzling officers of the Ship Kenilworth Castle, which is carrying a record cargo of 200 animals to Britain. The hippo is 12ft. long, his crate is 6ft. dims. wide. One morning he was found to be facing in the opposite direction. "Heaven knows how he did it," one of the officers told me. "We are still trying to work it out."

The SNAPSHOT GUILD

AN EYE FOR DETAIL



A carefully selected viewpoint and a small lens aperture help give this picture interest and detail.

WHETHER you photograph a good one. Looking your own home or a new at it, it is clear that the snapshotting that has just gone up, shooter carefully picked an interesting viewpoint. The monument, seen in the "frame" of the columns, helps give a feeling of depth. So do the columns across the pavement.

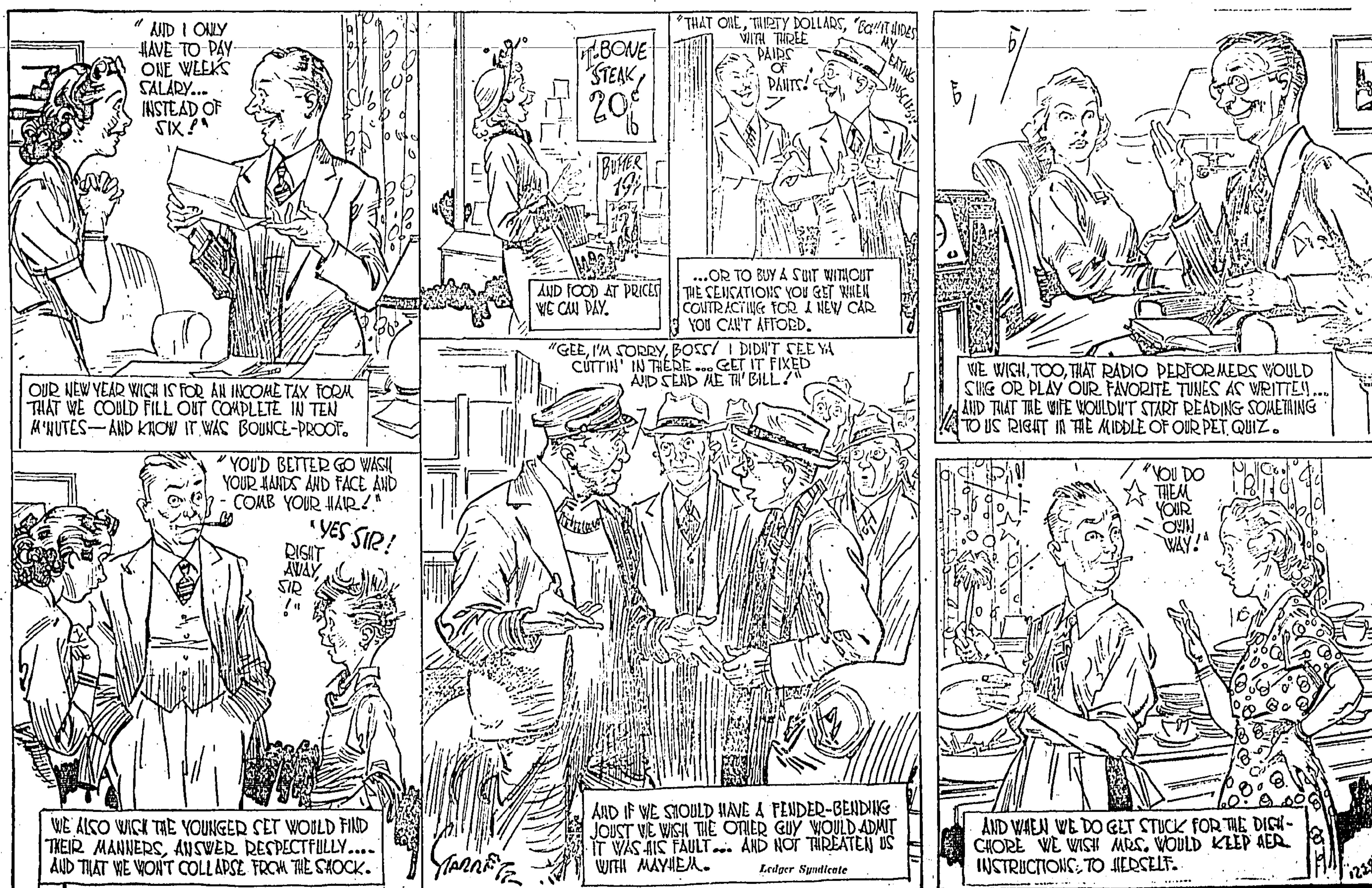
This will mean longer exposures. If you must shoot at less than 1/25 of a second, it will mean using a tripod or some other support to steady your camera when you click the shutter. But results justify this care. A small lens opening providing a great range of sharpness insures good definition in objects at various distances from the camera.

Notice, for example, that the columns in the foreground of today's illustration are sharply recorded. Some distance away, beyond the balustrade, the globe of a street lamp is in focus. Still farther away, beyond the trees, the Monument rises and is sharply defined. The lens opening used was f. 22.

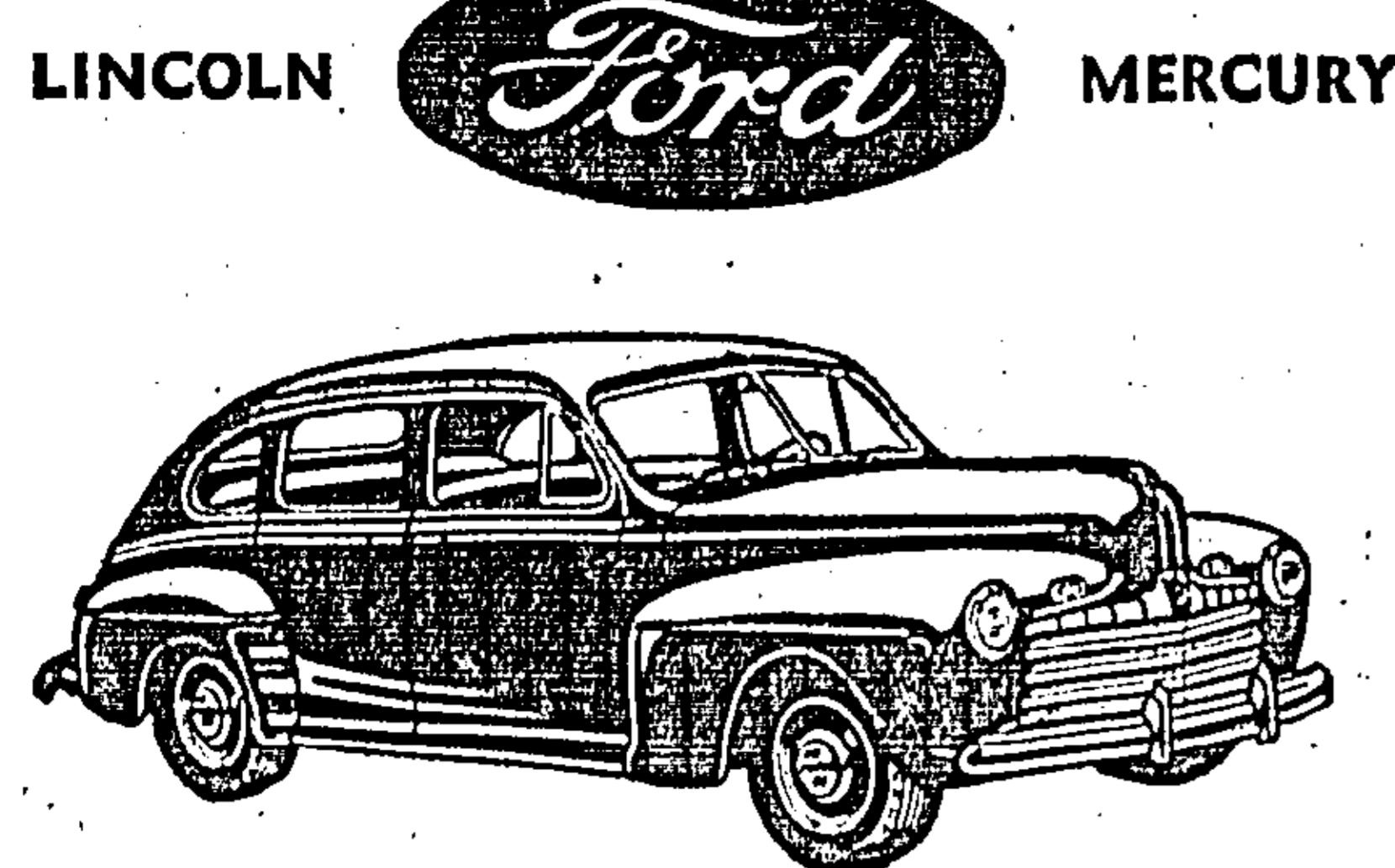
Detail, however, is only one factor that helps make this

John van Guilder.

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United States Now Exporting Rice

Washington, Jan. 23.—The United States has nearly doubled its annual rice production in the last two decades, a result due in large part to "mechanisation" of a crop which in other parts of the world has relied largely upon traditional methods of culture.

"Yankee" inventions applicable to grain culture and cotton harvesting—notable the "combine" and the "cotton-picker"—have stirred the world's imagination in recent years, but the "mechanisation" of the rice industry has attracted less popular attention.

Although Asiatic rice-producing countries, with more abundant labour supply, would not be likely to employ many of the American mechanical methods, rice experts here point out that the "scientific spirit" is working in Burma and Siam, world's greatest rice-exporting countries.

The government of newly-independent Burma, it is predicted, will adopt and apply many scientific innovations in culture, transportation and marketing, although not likely to employ such extreme labour-saving devices as the planting of rice from aeroplanes.

United States production of rough rice in the five years 1930-31 to 1934-35 averaged annually 41,572,000 bushels, and in five years immediately before World War II averaged annually 49,852,000 bushels. The 1947-48 crop was preliminarily estimated at 70,047,000, compared to 71,520,000 in the previous year.

World Rice Deficiency

The expanding production in the United States is a consequence partly of the world rice deficiency and partly of high prices which have encouraged development of new rice-growing areas, with mechanical aids. In the United States As a result the United States is now among the rice-exporting nations with an International Emergency Food Council allocation of 100,000 metric tons for the first half of 1948.

Aeroplane seeding of rice has been rapidly extended in United States, and in 1945 about 90 percent of the California acreage was sown from the air. The seed is sown quite evenly over a strip 30 to 50 feet wide for each trip of the plane across the field. The pilot of the plane is guided by a flagman at each end of the field.

Most of the rice in the southern states and California is either harvested with grain binders or "combines," according to the Department of Agriculture. However, along the Mississippi River and in the Bayou Teche country of Louisiana, some rice is still cut with hand sickles, and threshed when dry. The "combine" cuts and threshes the rice in one operation.

Great Asset

The "combines" are either self-propelled or are pulled through the fields by tractors. When drawn by a tractor, the power for running the cutting and threshing units is supplied by a gasoline or diesel engine mounted on the frame of the "combine."

ARE YOU SURE?

ANSWERS.

Questions on Page 9.

1. Westminster Abbey—the Unknown Warrior. 2. Buff Orpington is a breed of poultry. 3. Deposit laid down by wind. 4. Proboscis of a fly. 5. Torch. 6. Preston North End. 10. 1888-9. 7. Bill. 8. All three. 9. Firkin (nine gallons). 10. Kilderkin (18). 11. barrel (36) bushel (54). 10. Marquis of Milford Haven.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Solution of yesterday's puzzle.—
Across: 1. Overshoes; 2. Raspberry; 10. Citadel; 12. Nalad; 13. Trinil; 15. Slew; 16. Ends; 18. Toss; 19. Yes; 20. Rots; 21. Doss; 22. Aynh; 23. Oiser.

Down: 1. Orchestra; 2. Viniflory; 3. Estates; 4. Heed; 5. Orleans; 6. Erne; 7. Synopsis; 9. Pald; 11. Daisy; 14. Needs; 17. Dose.

PHOTOSTRIPE SERIAL—No. 18

SYNOPSIS:

While Bob Hope and the Malcays entertain with a harmonica act, Catherine hides under a table in the audience with an off-stage microphone over which she'll sing for "The Blonde."



Bob Hope re-introduces "The Blonde," and this time she fakes her number. In the middle of the song, however, she realises that Catherine's beautiful voice is so good that something must be done. While Catherine sings into the microphone under

HOW A HOLLYWOOD STAR IS BORN ★

the table, "The Blonde" goes out into the audience, pulls back the table, and reveals Catherine putting her all into the deception. She tells Catherine that at last she has found herself, and she wants Catherine to go on with the song so the audience

can see her. The audience is astounded at this development, as is Bob Hope and the rest of the show people who never saw anything like this happen anywhere before. So, Catherine at last, gets her chance to make good.

It's tougher than ever being an author

ON BECOMING A WRITER,
by Vera Brittain,
(Hutchinson, 10s. 6d.)

JOHN
PUDNEY
reviews

the New Books



So you are going to write a book? Let me not discourage you. About 600 books are published each week. One recent week's selection included: "300 Ways of Mixing Drinks," an "Atlas of Dental Histology," "Histiology," and "Schoolgirl Janet." There is room, you see, for everybody. The only golden rules are to know how to write and what to write about.

Paper shortage adds a sinister touch. So does the gaucheness of publishers. We are always being told of the number of classics which are out of print. Yet a glance at the Bookseller tells me that five different publishers are producing five rival editions of John Bunyan in one year.

This is discouraging to young men who, like Bunyan, have been in prison—and there are, alas, many—and who are writing what they hope to be masterpieces.

I know of no writer in Britain today who lives by books alone. But, if you persist in writing that book out of creative energy, I beg you to study Miss Vera Brittain. She will purge your urge. Her wisdom will refine your literary ambition.

Every stage of rice drying and milling is aided by machinery. Scouring is done with a mechanical brush. Some mills give the rice a glossy appearance by using a machine which coats the milled rice with "glucose" and "fale." The three principal rice-producing sections in the United States, according to the Department of Agriculture, are:

Development of automotive transportation also has been a great asset to the United States rice industry. In earlier years, practically all the hauling of rice to mills, storage houses or railway shipping points was done by horse and wagon. But now automobile trucks are used almost exclusively except by growers of small crops.

Although Asiatic rice-producing countries, with more abundant labour supply, would not be likely to employ many of the American mechanical methods, rice experts here point out that the "scientific spirit" is working in Burma and Siam, world's greatest rice-exporting countries.

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Down: 1. Orchestra; 2. Viniflory; 3. Estates; 4. Heed; 5. Orleans; 6. Erne; 7. Synopsis; 9. Pald; 11. Daisy; 14. Needs; 17. Dose.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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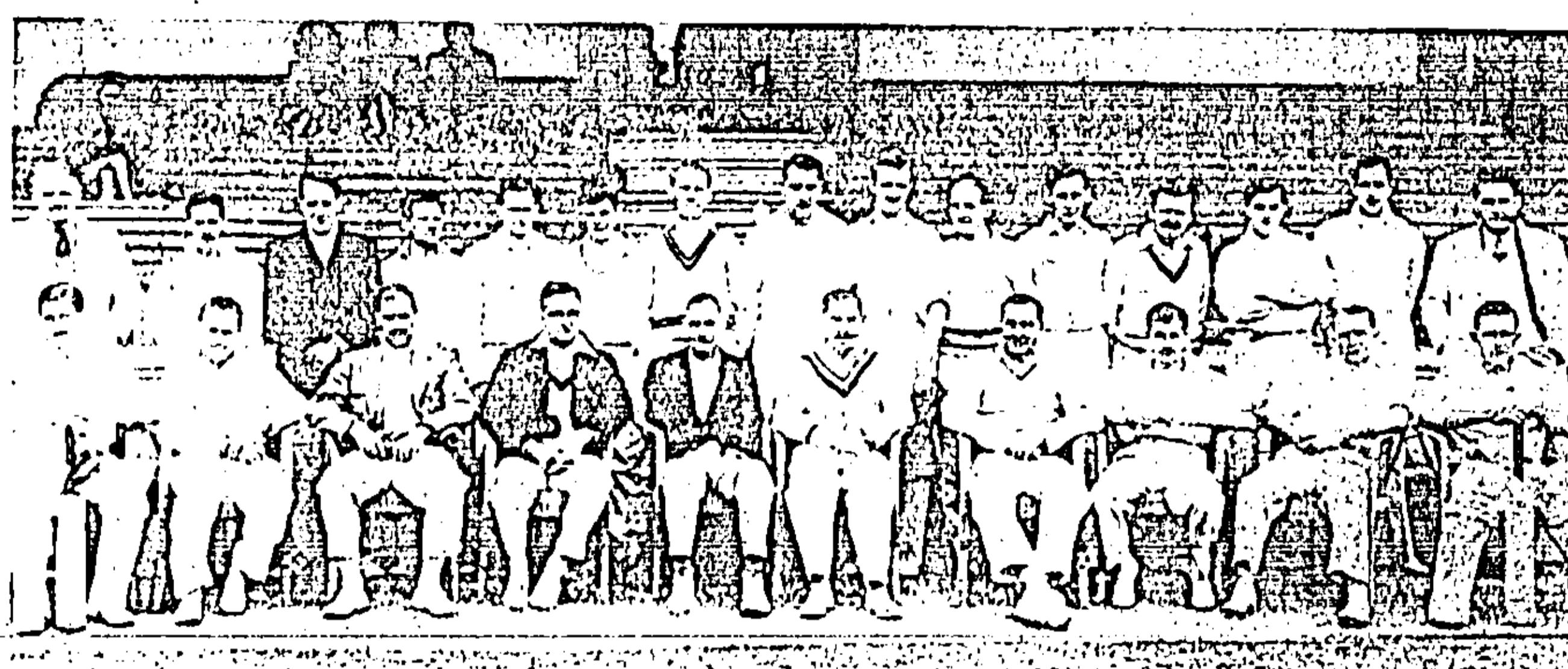
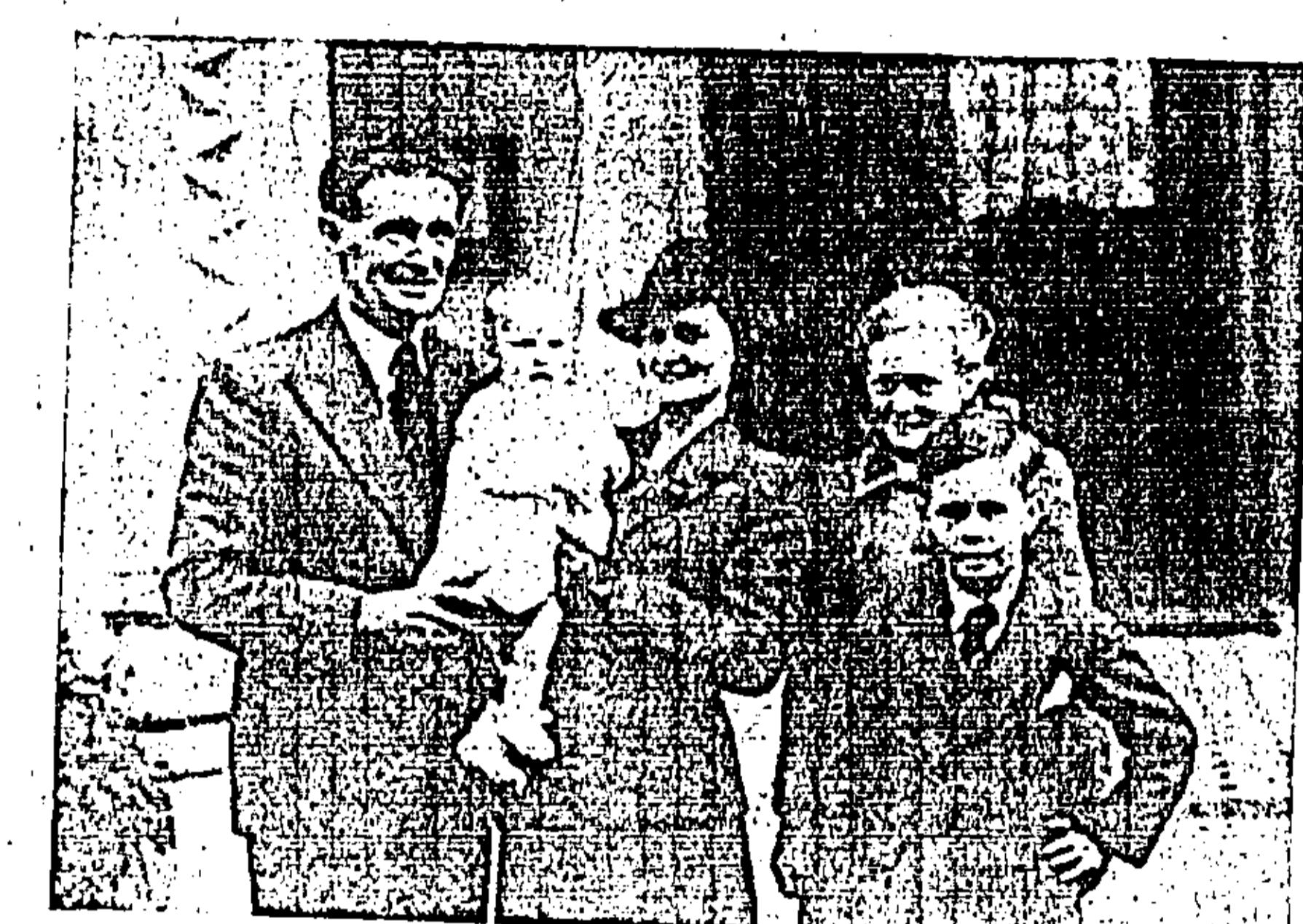
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TELEGRAPH WEEK-END PICTORIAL

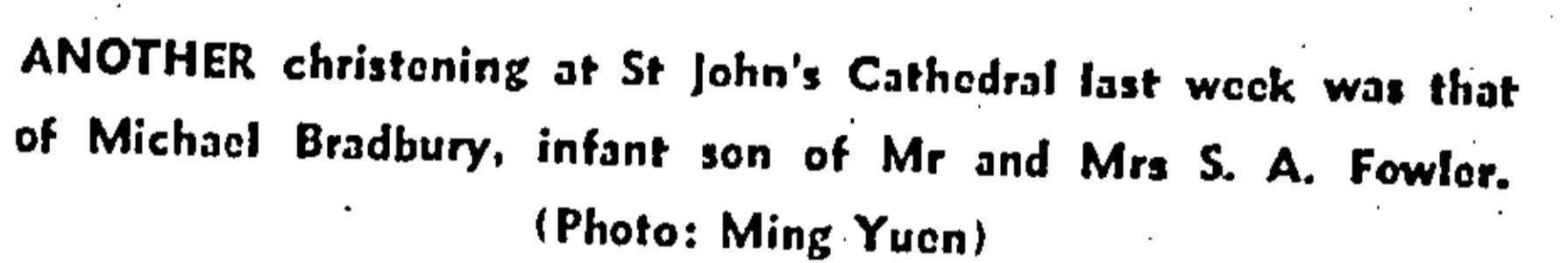
CROWDS PACK VALLEY FOR ANNUAL RACES



THE 1948 annual meeting of the Hongkong Jockey Club opened in brilliant weather last Saturday. Large crowds packed the stands and enclosures throughout the first three days of the meeting. Picture on the top right hand corner of the page gives an idea of the large attendance on Derby Day. Above, the Derby winner, Ataman, ridden by Mr E. A. Brodie, is seen being cheered in after winning the classic. The Ladies' Purse was won by Mr M. M. Boycott on Black Market, and the jockey is seen in top centre picture being presented with the purse by Miss Joan Kenniff. Right, scene during the drawing of the Derby sweepstake. (Photos: Golden Studio and Ming Yuen)



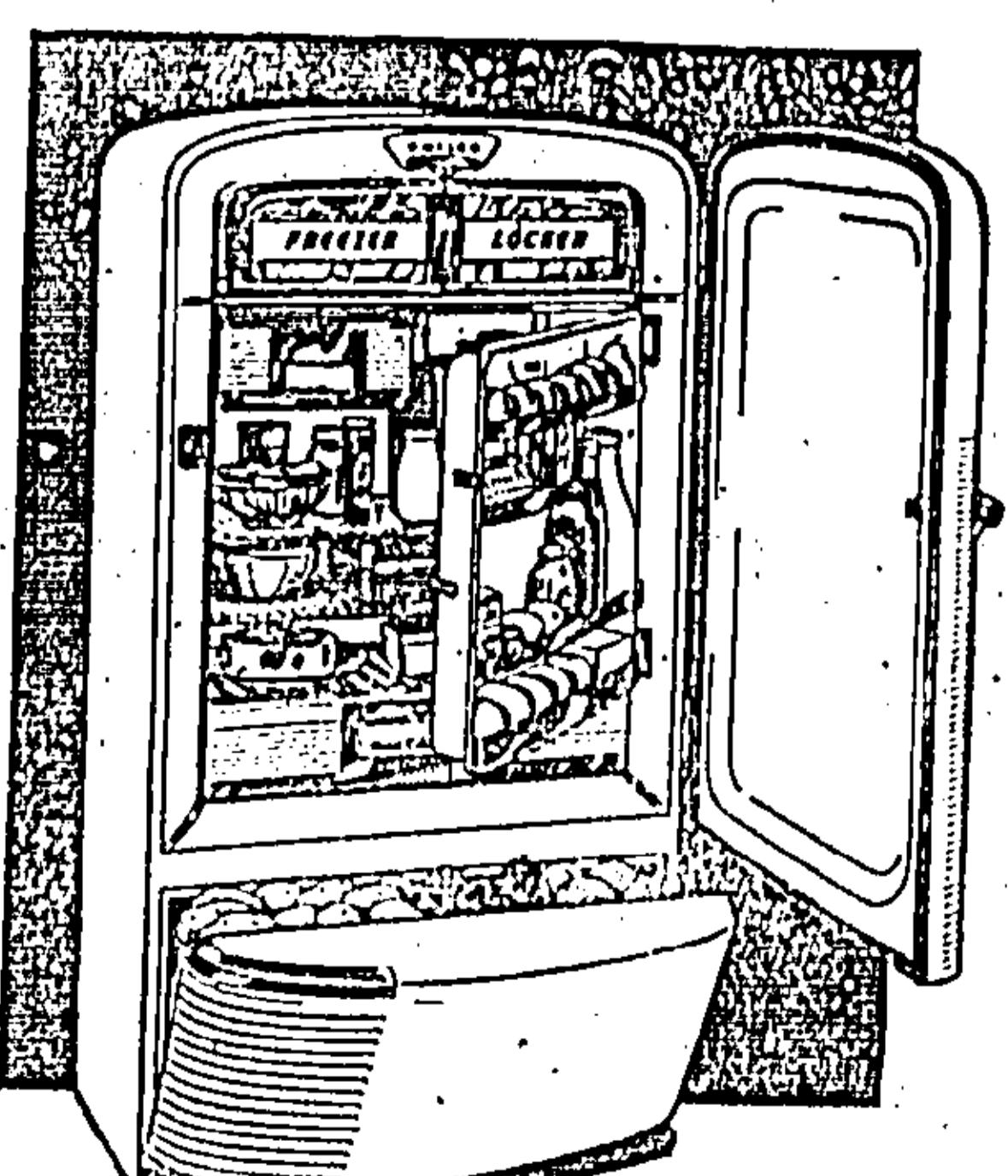
INTER-HONG CRICKET—Teams from Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, Ltd. and Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., Ltd., which met in a friendly cricket match last Sunday. The former won by 26 runs. (Photo: Ming Yuen)



PHOTOGRAPH shows the Committee and members of the Hongkong Flour Merchants' Association. (Photo: Mee Cheung)



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INTER-SCHOOL BASKETBALL—Above is the La Salle College team, which won the senior league organized by the South China Athletic Association. On right is the Chung Hwa Middle School team, which won the junior league. (Photos: Golden Studio)



Jap Politics Riddled With Corruption

Tokyo, Jan. 23.—Prominent American occupation officials charged today that Japanese politics is honeycombed with graft and ridden with gangsterism.

In public conference with members of the Japanese press, Mr Guy J. Swope, former Governor of Puerto Rico, who is now a member of SCAP's government section, uttered a vigorous warning that certain vicious elements in Japanese politics must be exterminated.

"Unless by some means or other the people of Japan can free themselves from the cancer of corruption and graft in politics, their chances to enjoy the benefits of a free government and free society are slight indeed," he said.

Old Influences

Mr Swope added that many old influences which prevented the sound, orderly development of political parties are gone.

"The gumbutsu (military clique) have been eliminated and the power of the Zabatists (economic clique) has been broken, but today there are the shinzen kankyu (new rich) and shinko zabatists (new money clique) whose impact is being felt upon political parties and their operations," Mr Swope said.

"Then there are the gangsters and black market racketeers, who wield certain influence in politics. The extent of this can be guessed when it is recalled that one of the most notorious gangsters in the nation now in prison was almost elected a member of the present Diet."

Evil Corrupt

Mr Swope charged that "there are many indications that evil and corrupt influences are playing a very important part in the politics of this nation."

"It seems significant that in Japan while many small politicians are brought into court for improper practices, rarely if ever a national figure is arrested for corruption and graft," he added.

"Why is it they are never brought to the bar of justice? Is it because of a peculiar idea in Japan which places those who are on the top of the pile above the law?"—United Press.

THE FALL OF SINGAPORE

Two Questions Still Unanswered

Singapore, Jan. 23.—The newspaper Free Press, commenting on the dispatch of Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, Commander-in-Chief, Far East, 1940-1941, published today, said the failure to recognize that Japan would strike was "the most serious entry of all in a docket heavy with error and misfortune."

The newspaper considered that though further despatches might cause distress, they should be published.

The English-language, Chinese and Malay newspapers today featured a 9,000-word report of the despatch, and the Malaya Tribune declared the report would serve to "whet the appetite" for the despatches of Lieutenant General Arthur Ernest Percival, who was commander-in-chief in the Far East when Singapore fell.

The Malaya Tribune said it was the principal question left unanswered.

"Why was the surrender made when the British Command had about 90,000 men to throw into action?"

"If the situation was hopeless as it is now seen apparently to have been, why did General Wavell issue the spirited Order of the Day on February 10, 1942, ordering all commanders to resist to the last and die at their posts rather than withdraw?"—Reuter.

3-POWER TALKS NEXT MONTH

London, Jan. 23.—The forthcoming three-power conference on the future of Western Germany will probably be held from February 17 to February 19. It was learned from a reliable source today.

The final decision on time and place of the conference, expected to be held in London, has still to be taken.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London said the central issue before the conference would be the constitution of Western Germany and not, as several press reports suggested, the Frankfurt proposals on the "bizonal administration" recently submitted to the German Premiers.

He agreed, however, that a discussion of the Frankfurt proposals, to which the French Government has raised objections, will certainly take place.—Reuter.

FRENCH CONVOY AMBUSHED

Paris, Jan. 23.—Viet Nam guerrillas today ambushed a French amphibious convoy near Saigon, killing four French soldiers, but the guerrilla forces were beaten off with heavy losses after a fierce skirmish, the French High Command communique reported today, according to an Agence Franco Presse dispatch from Saigon.

Meanwhile, French Marines have captured a Viet Nam junk near Duchon, killing all the crew and passengers.—Reuter.

Max Schmeling Will Fight Again This Year

Frankfurt, Jan. 23.—Max Schmeling, former world heavyweight champion, told a correspondent of the German news service in the British zone that he expected to meet the German title holder, Heinrich Hoff, for the championship sometime this autumn.

Schmeling declared that he was trying to arrange a match in Sweden with Olle Tandberg, the Swedish champion, or John Nilsen.

He said he would not fight the Italian, Giovanni Martin, in Sweden, since Swedish sports regulations did not permit matches between two foreigners.

Schmeling denied rumours that financial difficulties had compelled him to stage a "comeback," he said.—Reuter.

Indonesian Cabinet Decides To Resign

Batavia, Jan. 23.—The Indonesian Republic's National Cabinet, headed by Dr Amir Sjarifuddin, resigned tonight, exactly one week after the signing of the truce agreement with the Dutch.

The resignation had been predicted after the crisis this week over the conditions attached by the Republic to its acceptance last Monday of the six political principles suggested by the United Nations Security Council's "Good Offices" Committee as the basis for a substantive political settlement to the two-and-a-half-year-old dispute with the Dutch.

Broadcasting from Jogjakarta tonight, the President of the Republic, Dr Soekarno, told Indonesian Republicans throughout Java and Sumatra that he had given his Vice-President, Dr Mohammed Hatta, a mandate to form a new government.

LORDS TO THROW OUT BILL

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

London, Jan. 23.—The Conservative peers intend to throw out the new Government bill designed to curtail their powers of delaying legislation when it is debated in the House of Lords on Tuesday.

The peers at present can delay non-monetary legislation for a maximum of two years. The Government, by the Parliament bill, proposes to cut this period to one year. This is to ensure that the nationalisation of iron and steel, which will introduce in the next session, takes place within the time remaining of the present Parliament.

The Conservative peers, outnumbering the Government peers by 12 to one, can now hold up the bill limiting their powers by the present maximum of two years. By making the bill retrospective, however, the Government will ensure that measures such as the iron and steel will automatically become law along with the Parliament bill in 1949.

TORIES' OBJECTION

The Conservative peers resist the Parliament bill because they think it alters the essential balance of the constitution, but they favour some general reform of the House of Lords which would give a more equitable balance of the parties.

On a general Lords reform, some of the peers have suggested a House of 200 instead of 800 Members, of whom only one half would have hereditary title to sit.

If the Government were to offer consideration of a scheme of the kind, the peers might not change their mind about voting against the Parliament bill in its present form, but they would probably agree to adjourn the debate pending discussions.

The Government is not likely to agree to such a course, though it is prepared, without prejudice, to present a bill to consider ideas for the reform of the House of Lords.

The final decision on time and place of the conference, expected to be held in London, has still to be taken.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London said the central issue before the conference would be the constitution of Western Germany and not, as several press reports suggested, the Frankfurt proposals on the "bizonal administration" recently submitted to the German Premiers.

He agreed, however, that a discussion of the Frankfurt proposals, to which the French Government has raised objections, will certainly take place.—Reuter.

Princess Visits Commons

London, Jan. 23.—Princess Elizabeth, accompanied by her secretary, Mr John Colville, and her Lady-in-Waiting, Lady Margaret Seymour, visited the House of Commons on foreign affairs to hear the debate on foreign affairs.

It was her first informal visit to the House of Commons to hear a debate although she had been present at the ceremonial openings of Parliament by the King.

The Princess took her place in the Speaker's gallery and listened eagerly to Mr Churchill's speech.

When Mr Churchill advised the House to leave the past to history and added pungently: "I propose to write that history myself," the Princess joined heartily in the laughter.

The Duke of Edinburgh spent part of the morning in the House of Lords at a private rehearsal of next week's ceremony, when he will take his place in the House of Lords.

He joined the Princess in the House of Commons to listen to the debate during the afternoon.—Reuter.

MILITARY MEN IN GOVERNMENT

Chicago, Jan. 23.—Defence Secretary James V. Forrestal said today there is "no conscious plan to plant military men throughout the government."

He added: "The people would not stand for it."

Mr Forrestal said he believed it was "bad to plant men from any particular group through the government."

He made the statement in response to a query for his views on the appointment of military personnel to government jobs generally and attempts by President Truman to have Maj.-Gen. Laurence S. Kuter appointed chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board.

He said he had received a letter from Congress asking for comments on government appointments.

"I think our government needs views accumulating from men from various groups," he said.

Balanced Forces

Mr Forrestal said the Navy and Marines are close to their manpower goals but that the army ground forces are deficient in manpower.

He said there is a tendency to think too much about air power at present, adding: "We must remember there are the ground forces and the navy. We must keep in mind the need of balanced forces."

He said he had not heard from Gen. Douglas MacArthur for three months and had no idea when Gen. MacArthur would retire.

Masjumi Withdraws

The Republican Moslem Party, called the Masjumi, the biggest in the Republic, almost simultaneously announced its withdrawal from the Sjarifuddin Cabinet.

Five Ministers immediately resigned, and two positions on the Republican delegation to take part in the negotiations sponsored by the "Good Offices" Committee became vacant.

Subsequent efforts to induce the Masjumi to rejoin the Cabinet were unsuccessful.

The resignation of the Republican Army Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Uri, and one of his major-generals, who were members of the Republican special committee negotiating the technical details of the cease-fire and truce, also followed Dr Sjarifuddin's acceptance of the six principles.

General Uri, it is understood, claimed that he was not consulted before the Republican decision was announced.

Political Principles

The most serious difficulty for Dr Sjarifuddin, however, arose this week-end when the Netherlands objected to the manner in which the Republican Premier had accepted the most significant six of the 18 political principles suggested by the "Good Offices" Committee.

The Netherlands Government yesterday said that its delegation had accepted the six principles fully and unconditionally, and expected the Republic to do the same.

The Republican acceptance had been conditional upon matters recorded in the minutes of its vital meetings with the "Good Offices" Committee before its acceptance of the truce terms at Jogjakarta.

These have not been disclosed, but are understood to concern the status of the Republic in the intervening period before a political settlement is reached.

Republican sources in Batavia said that had been done, several of the major political parties, probably including Dr Sjarifuddin's own Socialist Party, would have withdrawn their support from the Government.

Although there is not yet any definite information from Jogjakarta, Republican sources here believe that the fall of the Cabinet came about in anticipation of this happening.

Cabinet Reshuffle

The Sjarifuddin Cabinet took office on the fall of the Cabinet of Dr Sutan Sjahrir last July, just before the Dutch began their police action. It was formed from a coalition of left wing parties, of which Dr Sjarifuddin himself was leader, and the Nationalist Party, with some Moslem support.

The Cabinet was reshuffled in November to include the Masjumi Party.

According to the Republicans, the "Good Offices" Committee had assured Dr Amir Sjarifuddin in the minutes that the Republic's status was not compromised by the first of the six principles, which said that Netherlands sovereignty would remain until transferred to the United States of Indonesia, and provided for the Republic to accept state status in the United States of Indonesia.

Dr Frank P. Graham, the American member of the "Good Offices" Committee, and Mr T. K. Critchley, the Australian deputy member, are trying to Jogjakarta tomorrow to endeavour to settle this difficulty.

Committee's Advice

Reliable sources said tonight that it was considered likely that the "Good Offices" Committee would have told Dr Sjarifuddin of the Netherlands' attitude to his conditional acceptance and advised him to accept unconditionally.

Dr. Hatta, who succeeds Dr. Sjarifuddin, recently returned to Jogjakarta from Sumatra, where he has been leading the Republicans. He had been Vice-President since the Republic was first formed on August 17, 1945.

He was educated in Holland and has been one of the leaders of Indonesian nationalism since the twenties.—Reuter.

Scientist Warns New York Of Earthquake Danger

New York, Jan. 23.—A Harvard scientist, Dr L. Don Leet, professor of seismology, warned today that the city of New York should make preparations to combat the emergency of a possible disastrous earthquake which might strike some day in the future.

He said New York, Boston and other cities on the east coast should profit by the sad experience of west coast cities.

In his new book, "Causes of Catastrophe," Dr Leet admitted that some seismologists may disagree with his reported "seismically proving" New England and adjacent sections of north-eastern America in an epoch of increasing seismicity which probably has not yet passed its climax."

He reported that in years gone by the intervals between larger shocks have been decreasing which is an indication of the approach of a new "epoch of increasing seismicity."

Dr Leet said: "There is absolutely no way of knowing there will be as

much as a single quake more in the next century, but experience in New England and other parts of the world indicates a strong probability that there will be more strong ones in central and southern parts district."

He said there are some areas of weakness in New York city through Connecticut and elsewhere in New England. He said cities in east United States should redesign themselves to the possibility of an earthquake and added that steps have already been taken to prevent a repetition of the San Francisco fire.

"There are the first requirements of quake-proofing any city," Dr Leet said. "Fire is a specific hazard (95 per cent to the total damage in San Francisco and Tokyo), which can be guarded against."—United Press.

K'loon City Problem Brain's-Trusted

Sir—As I see it—with a modicum of perspicacity, a Brain's Test would define the K'loon squatter problem something like this....

....A somewhat difficult question....in the sense that if a squatter....always assuming that one can define a squatter....has no focus stand....that is to say....

....within the meaning of the act (and what an act)...the squatter is not entitled to squat....as it were....

....and after all, one cannot get away from the Law and....er....get away with it. In other words, it is ridiculous to suggest that K'loon

is a city....I mean, K'loon never

was a city....or what I really mean is that K'loon City is not a city, because, I quite agree that K'loon

....as distinct from K'loon city....really is a city....whereas K'loon city is not....that is to

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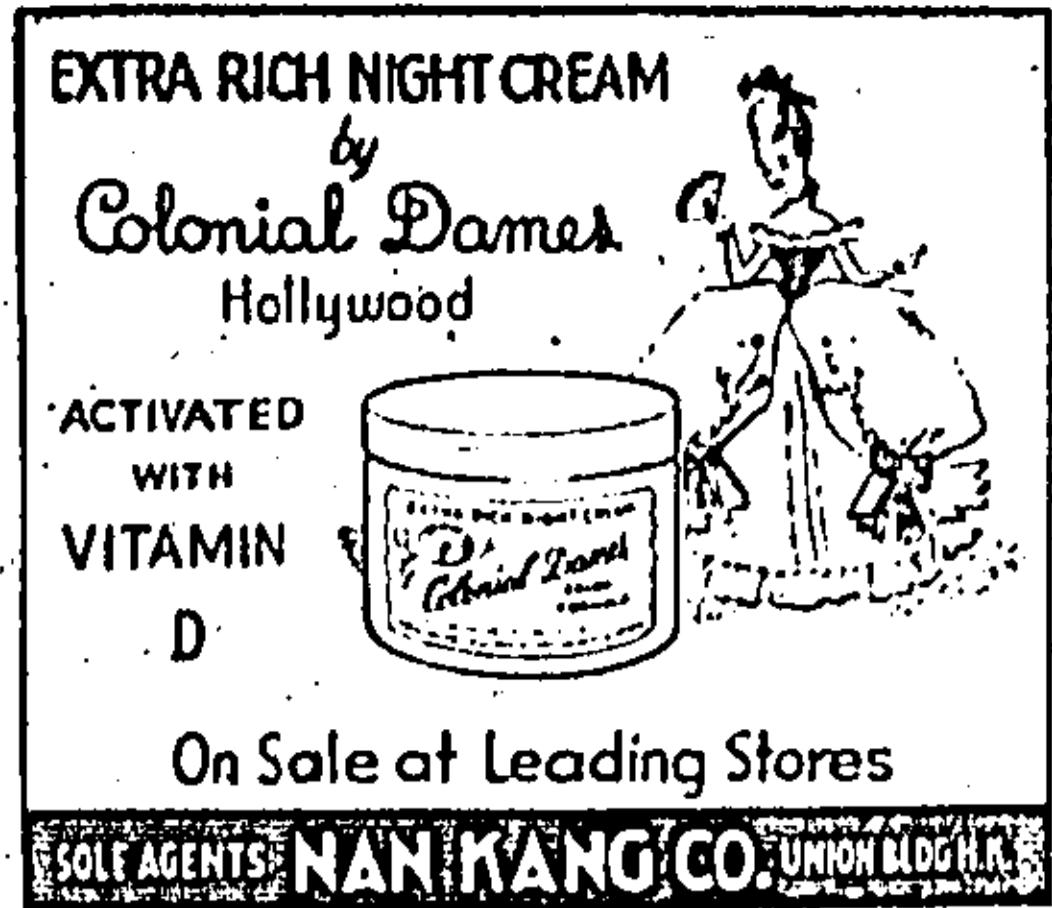
FRENCH INSIST ON DEVALUATION

Paris, Jan. 23.—Information from reliable sources here tonight seemed to show that the French Government feels obliged to go ahead with its plans to devalue the franc whatever the decision of the International Monetary Fund, whose Board is now considering the plans in Washington.

The French scheme, as at present contemplated, involves establishing a double exchange rate.

Subject to last minute changes, the plan is:

A new official exchange rate for the dollar to be about 210 francs to the dollar. This would be combined with the free market for free currencies, that is to say, for the dollar and the Swiss franc as well as for gold.



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Hongkong Telegraph.

VOL. III NO. 20

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1948.

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Air Bases In Cyrenaica

London, Jan. 23.—Representatives of Britain and the United States have discussed in London tentative plans for the setting up of a chain of Anglo-American tactical air bases in Cyrenaica, North Africa.

Observers in London consider that such bases would probably be primarily in the Benghazi area with some at the eastern end of Cyrenaica, possibly around Tobruk.

There is already a wartime aerodrome at El-Adein, outside Tobruk. British troops evacuated from Palestine will probably be moved to Cyrenaica and Tripoli, it was recently learned here today.

The new bases, the observers consider, would probably be smaller than the Air Transport Command base which the United States is reopening at Mellaha, near Tripoli.

PLEDGE TO CHIEFTAIN

The future of any bases planned as the outcome of the present Anglo-American talks will, of course, be subject to the decisions on the future of the former Italian colonies which the "Big Four" deputies may make later this year.

Britain's wartime pledge to Sayid Muhammad Idrl El-Senussi, chief of the Senussi tribes, that Cyrenaica should not be handed back to Italian rule in any form makes it at least possible that Britain's close connection with Cyrenaica will be maintained. —Reuter.

Train Smash: 3 Killed

London, Jan. 23.—Three men were killed and 34 men and women were injured when a packed electric train from Ore, near Hastings, crashed into the rear of an empty stationary Brighton train at London Bridge station this morning.

Those killed included the motorman of the Ore train and a man who was standing by a bookstall on the platform. The other casualty was a learner motorman on the Ore train. His identity is as yet unknown.

The Ore train forced the Hastings train through the station buffers, demolishing a bookstall in which two residents were trapped. The two residents were trapped for three hours in the demolished cab. Rescue parties used all kinds of tools, including a huge breakdown crane, in desperate efforts to free them, but when it became known that they were dying, a clergyman forced his way through the twisted metal to comfort them before they died. The two bodies were exhumed later.

None of the injured passengers were taken to Guy's Hospital. Many had miraculous escapes. —Reuter.

EDITORIAL

Still A Breeding Ground

MORE than a month ago the Telegraph reported on the condition of the detention cells at the Central Police Station. They were filthy, insanitary and grossly overcrowded—a breeding ground for epidemics and disease. This week we again inquired about the state of the cells, the report being: The Sanitary Department was requested to clean the cells, which was done immediately. A new set of latrines has been provided for the prisoners to replace the leaking wooden buckets, and these are now emptied twice a day instead of once. The PWD were asked to whitewash the cells. They succeeded in treating the ceilings, but found that the whitewash would not stick to the walls, and this task was temporarily abandoned, with the promise that the workmen "would be back sometime" to scrape, clean and whitewash the walls, "when they had time." Blankets have been provided for the inmates, and the Police have suggested that the empty offices on the north side of the Central Police Station compound be converted into dormitories, with proper ventilation and flush facilities. This project has been proposed to the PWD who have promised they will attend to it "sometime soon." The public will gain little satisfaction from such a dreary endeavour to cor-

Mr Attlee's Vigorous Attack On Communism

CANNOT SHUT EYES TO POSSIBILITY OF WAR

London, Jan. 23.—The Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, today followed up the warning to Soviet Russia against "playing with fire in international affairs" given by his Foreign Minister, Mr Ernest Bevin, yesterday with another strong attack on Communism.

"We recognise that there is in Communism a dynamic force," he said in winding up the two-day debate on foreign affairs in the House of Commons. "It is a fanatical movement enlisting the support of people of a certain type of mind or in a certain condition of society and it has become the official creed of a great nation. It has but slight appeal to those with experience of Western civilisation, but it does make an appeal to backward peoples who have never known anything better.

Communism has a tremendous driving force, but Britain was not prepared to accept Communism, although she wished to have the friendliest relations with the people of Soviet Russia and with the Communist state.

"We are absolutely opposed to the Communist way of life. The police state is completely repugnant to the people of Western Europe.

"We shall not try to foist our system on the Soviet Union and we equally demand they should not attempt to foist theirs on us.

"I am sure Mr Stalin is enough of a realist to appreciate the complete failure during the difficult inter-war years of the Communist creed to make any effective advance in this country.

"Therefore, he should give up the idea that somehow or other Britain is going to turn to Communism.

IDEOLOGICAL ASSAULT

Britain, he said, was opposed to the Communist conception of intimacy. "The essence of democracy is the difference of opinion, free discussion, tolerance of other people's points of view."

"The world we want to see is one in which there are a number of diverse and different units as compared with the Communist world, in which they try to make Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, little copies of Russia."

If Western civilisation is to stand against this ideological assault, it is talking of a war of ideas and not of bombs—it must attain a degree of unity.

"But any attempt to get unity would offend the very object we have in mind."

Mr Attlee said that although Britain naturally desired to see all countries turn to democratic socialism, it was not for Britain to interfere.

He believed, however, they could all work together despite differences because they had one point in common.

POSSIBILITIES OF WAR

Amid cheers, Mr Attlee said he did not believe it was good to be talking of war. On the other hand it was no good shutting one's eyes to the possibility of war.

"I do not believe war to be imminent, but I believe we have to use our greatest exertions to do away with the causes of war and prevent war arising."

There was anxiety in the House of Commons over the results of the world being divided on ideological lines.

There was also great anxiety at the course of the Russian actions. There was a general desire to know the real object of the rumour about Russia. No answer was given even by those who had fully explained the Russian point of view.

Parliament, Mr Attlee declared, recognized the need of leadership in the non-Communist world and there was general support for Mr Bevin's policy of closer political and economic integration of Europe, coupled with the recognition that Western Europe could not live by itself.

Hence this desire for a wider integration with Africa and other overseas territories with the great Western democracies and with the British Dominions.

The union of Europe needed to be achieved under the larger unity of the United Nations Organisation.

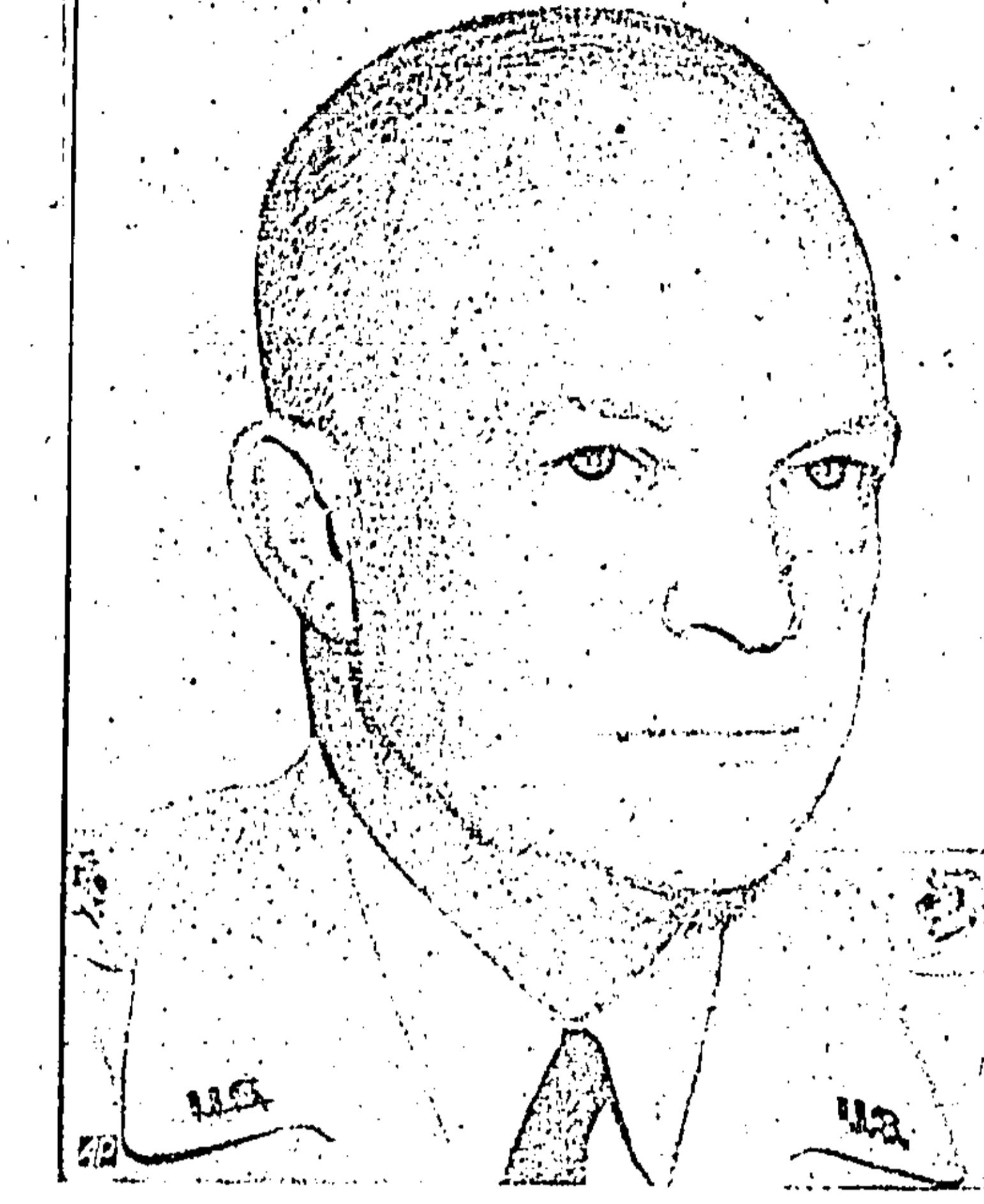
European civilisation must spread all over the world.

MUST PRESS AHEAD

As for the practical steps on European economy, there was already machinery in progress for the allocation of wheat, rice, oils and other materials, some on a world and some on a European basis.

The possibilities of a Western European customs union had also been examined and were now passing through the technical stages at Brussels.

This would mean that trade would eventually become free throughout that area. "We should press ahead with the utmost vigour with this idea, consistent with the immense complexities of this problem." —Reuter.



GENERAL EISENHOWER

Eisenhower Refuses To Be Candidate For Presidency

Washington, Jan. 23.—General Eisenhower today finally and positively repudiated efforts to nominate him for President. He told Republican supporters that he "could not accept nomination to high political office."

General Eisenhower's positive statement came after months of speculation on whether he would or would not be a candidate. He had disavowed political ambitions on many occasions, but never, until today, with sufficient force to persuade his admirers he really meant it.

He is generally counted as the most glamorous potential political figure in the country and many Republicans had hoped to capitalise on his winning smile.

Polls indicated that on the basis of present conditions he would have defeated President Truman if he had headed the Republican ticket in November's Presidential election.

MY BOOST DEWEY

His withdrawal probably will be a boost for Governor Thomas Dewey's Presidential ambitions. The New York Governor's political appeal has generally been rated second only to General Eisenhower among potential Republican candidates.

General Eisenhower accompanied his refusal with a word of advice to the Republican Presidential nominating General Douglas MacArthur, who has been entered in the Wisconsin Presidential primary.

General Eisenhower's statement presumably will cause his New Hampshire delegate slate to withdraw, leaving the contest there to two delegates representing ex-Governor Harold Stassen of Minnesota.

CANNOT ACCEPT

In his statement, the Chief of Staff said: "I could not accept the nomination even under the remote circumstance that it was tendered to me."

He stated his position in a letter to Leonard Fender, publisher of the Manchester (New Hampshire) "Union Leader." The Army said the letter was being released "because General Eisenhower hopes that he would not accept nomination because he considered it would be an 'affront'."

General Eisenhower said the decision to remove himself completely from the political scene was "definite and positive" and he wrote to Mr. Fender:

"I know you will not object to my making this letter public to inform all interested persons that I could not accept nomination."

He said he hoped Fender would understand that his conclusions were not only sound but had been arrived at objectively. He added that he heretofore had withheld a bold statement that he would not accept nomination because he considered it would be an "affront."

UNALLOYED TRAGEDY

"It is my conviction that necessary and wise subordination of military to civil power will best be sustained... when lifelong professional soldiers... abstain from seeking high political office."

He said it would be "unalloyed tragedy" if future military commanders were selected with an eye to their potentialities in the political

NORSE QUEEN WINS CHAMPION STAKES Easily Repeats Last Year's Success

As expected, Norse Queen, ridden by Donald Black, won the 1948 Champion Stakes at Happy Valley this afternoon, beating Sookunpots (S. W. Pang) in easy fashion by many lengths.

V-J Day, the only other starter, trailed many lengths behind Sookunpots, and generally speaking it was a colourless and disappointing race.

Norse Queen started a raging favourite and paid out \$5.20 for a win and \$5.10 for a place.

The weather was overcast and rather cold for the last day of the annual Spring carnival, but a huge crowd turned up. Fields were on the large side, but dividends were light.

A. Ostrumoff scored twice in the first five races, piloting Beckenham and Domino home to popular victories.

Results of the first six races and cash sweeps follow.

1. HAY AND CORN STAKES (First Section) For Australian Subscription ponies of 1948. Winners barred. Half a mile.

Applinham (K. S. Leong) 147 1
Possibility (C. C. Liang) 152 2
V. K. Tu (V. K. Tu) 141 3
Won by Five lengths. 1/2 lengths.

Time 34 seconds. 10 lengths. Part-Mutuel 13.00 winner, Places 6.30, 10.20, 14.00. Also ran: Chief Witness (H. C. Tai), Gentleman Jim (H. S. Muo), Good Boy (Y. K. Tu), Hyaline (W. K. Shieh), Princess Delight (C. F. Ng), Silver Marshall (M. W. Tang), Golden Star (C. C. Liang), Green Top (C. R. Lawrence), Trial Trip (G. A. Jones), 14 starters.

2. CHAMPION STAKES (First Section) For Australian Subscription ponies of 1948. Winners barred. One mile.

Applinham (K. S. Leong) 147 1
Possibility (C. C. Liang) 152 2
V. K. Tu (V. K. Tu) 141 3
Won by Five lengths. 1/2 lengths.

Time 34 seconds. 10 lengths. Part-Mutuel 13.00 winner, Places 6.30, 10.20, 14.00. Also ran: Autumn Leaf (W. K. Shieh), Erolita (S. J. Yuen), Frostylight (K. Fok), Patina (L. S. Leung), Prince of Foxes (K. F. Choi), Priority (M. W. Tang), Queen's Mate (M. W. Tang), Silver Sun (K. C. Choi), Sun About (P. S. Leong), Sun Fun (R. K. C. Choi), 13 starters.

3. CONSOLIDATION STAKES (First Section) For the second batch of Australian Subscription ponies of 1948. Winners barred. One mile.

Beckenham (A. Ostrumoff) 147 1
Piggy (J. H. A. Day) 147 2
V. K. Tu (V. K. Tu) 141 3
Won by A length. Many lengths.

Time 34.54. Part-Mutuel 13.00 winner, Places 5.30, 10.00, 14.00. Also ran: Autumn Leaf (W. K. Shieh), Erolita (S. J. Yuen), Frostylight (K. Fok), Flying Arrow (W. K. Shieh), Golden Wheel (M. W. Tang), Happy Valley (E. Kwok), National Congress (C. F. Ng), Rose Marie (A. Ostrumoff), Sunlight (S. C. Liang), 10 starters.

4. HONGKONG HANDICAP (First Section) For Australian ponies of 'B' class. One and a half miles.

Fifth Alarm (V. Y. Neida) 153 1
Piggy (J. H. A. Day) 152 2
Applinham (K. S. Leong) 142 3
Won by 21 lengths. 3 lengths.

Time 32.53. Part-Mutuel 16.80 winner, Places 6.50, 10.40, 14.00. Also ran: Autumn Leaf (W. K. Shieh), Erolita (S. J. Yuen), Frostylight (K. Fok), Flying Arrow (W. K. Shieh), Golden Wheel (M. W. Tang), Happy Valley (E. Kwok), National Congress (C. F. Ng), Rose Marie (A. Ostrumoff), Sunlight (S. C. Liang), 10 starters.

5. HONGKONG HANDICAP (Second Section) For Australian Subscription ponies of 1948. Winners barred. Half a mile.

Fifth Alarm (V. Y. Neida) 153 1
Piggy (J. H. A. Day) 152 2
Applinham (K. S. Leong) 142 3
Won by 21 lengths. 3 lengths.

Time 32.53. Part-Mutuel 16.80 winner, Places 6.50, 10.40, 14.00. Also ran: Autumn Leaf (W. K. Shieh), Erolita (S. J. Yuen), Frostylight (K. Fok), Flying Arrow (W. K. Shieh), Golden Wheel (M. W. Tang), Happy Valley (E. Kwok), National Congress (C. F. Ng), Rose Marie (A. Ostrumoff), Sunlight (S. C. Liang), 10 starters.

6. HONGKONG HANDICAP (Second Section) For Australian Subscription ponies of 1948. Winners barred. Half a mile.

Fifth Alarm (V. Y. Neida) 153 1
Piggy (J. H. A. Day) 152 2
Applinham (K. S. Leong) 142 3
Won by 21 lengths. 3 lengths.

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7. HAY AND CORN STAKES (Second Section) For Australian Subscription ponies of 1948. Winners barred. Half a mile.

Fifth Alarm (V. Y. Neida) 153 1
Piggy (J. H. A. Day) 152 2
Applinham (K. S. Leong) 142 3
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Fifth Alarm (V. Y. Neida) 153 1
Piggy (J. H. A. Day) 152 2
Applinham (K

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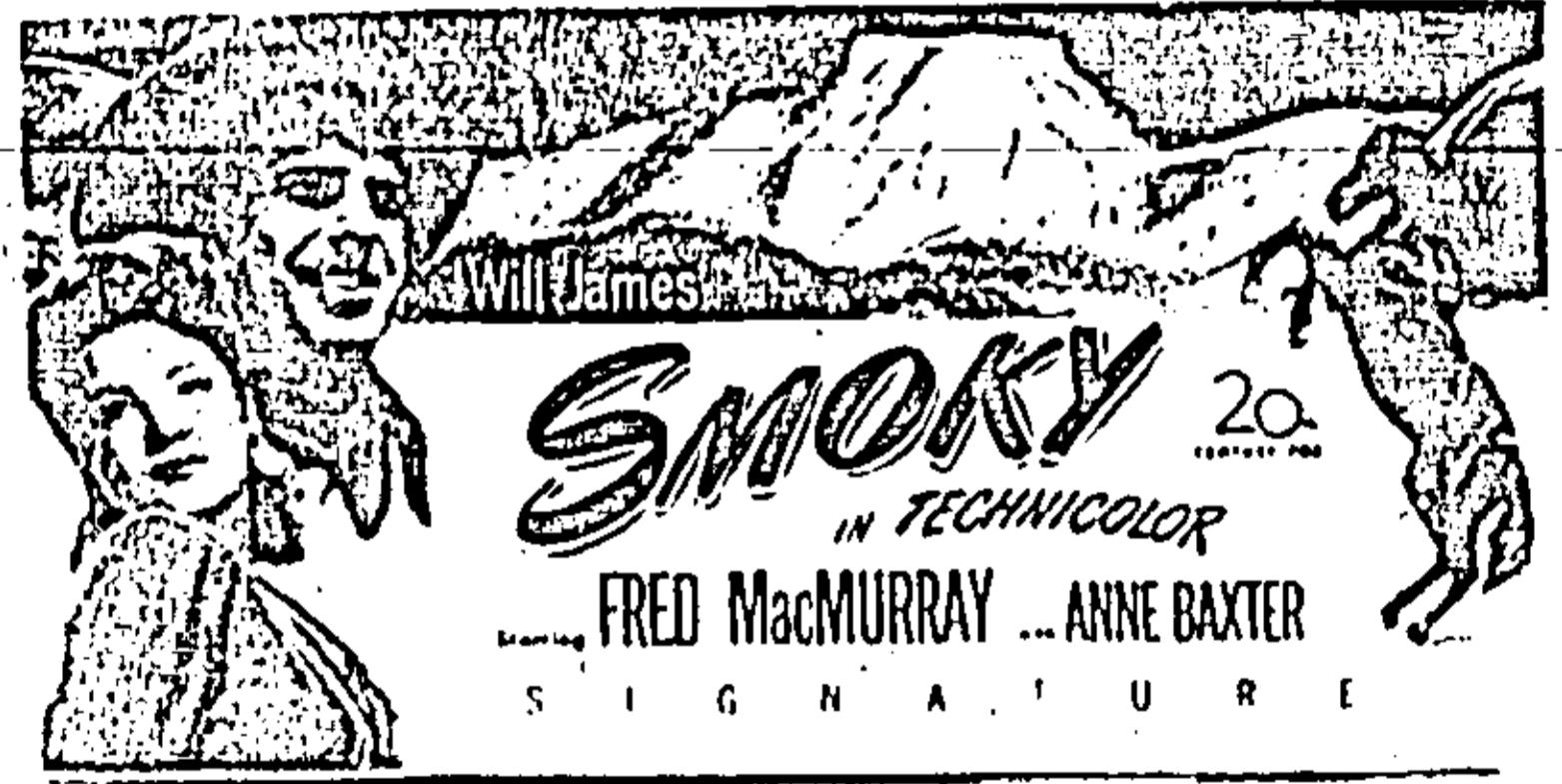
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IN TECHNICOLOR

Starring:

ELIZABETH TAYLOR
FRANK MORGAN & TOM DRAKE
AN M-G-M HIT**Stars accuse the
film bosses**

THERE are signs that restlessness among British film stars over "sausage-machine" production methods is coming to a head. The drift from the studios to stage work is one significant portent.

The rather pompous announcement by the Rank organisation, suspending Margaret Lockwood's contract for declining a role, is unimportant in itself. They have already chosen a new film for her, "Ivy Sister is Dead."

But the incident is the first public manifestation of an unhealthy tendency in Big Business film methods here.

Many stars and directors have complained to me of the bureaucratic system.

Directors find they are being "directed" from a high executive level in a way that stifles imagination and enthusiasm. Stars are compilation of type-casting and the compulsion, under long-term contracts, of acting in unsuitable roles. This is why an increasing number

**LINDA'S A
"MASS OF
BLISTERS"**

Hollywood. — Linda Darnell complains that corsets she has had to wear in historical films including "Forever Amber" may deprive her of motherhood.

She says her body is "such a mass of blisters and wells" it will take six months' remedial exercise to make it normal.

Adds Linda: "Those corsets have reduced me 17 pounds." From London comes support for Linda from two of England's famous beauties—the Dowager Marchioness of Headfort, formerly Rose Boot the Gaity Girl, and Mrs J. Evans, formerly Camille Clifford, the original Gibson Girl.

Linda is not consoled when told wistful women of Victorian days had big families. Although some Victorian women had 20 children both mothers and children often died young.

**BOX-OFFICE
SCORES
FOR 1947**

LONDON.—New York's National Board of Review of Motion Pictures names Celia Johnson and Michael Redgrave the best actress and actor of 1947.

In 1946 the critics of 10 New York daily papers picked Miss Johnson as that year's best actress for her part in "Brief Encounter." The Board selected Miss Johnson for her part in "This Happy Breed," Redgrave for his part in "Mourning Becomes Electra."

It considered Chaplin's "Monsieur Verdoux" the best film in 1947.

The Board included "Great Expectations," "Odd Man Out," "The Overlanders" and two Italian productions in the year's 10 best pictures.

The American film weekly, Showman's Trade Review, considers James Mason the most popular actor in Britain with Anna Neagle and Margaret Lockwood sharing the lead of actresses.

The Kinematograph Weekly says the best box-office film of 1947 in Britain was "The Courtesans of Curzon Street."

Runners-up were "Great Expectations," "Odd Man Out," "Frieda," "Holiday Camp" and Hollywood's "The Jolson Story" and "Duel in the Sun."

This journal says John Mills led James Mason and Margaret Lockwood as the most popular stars. Gaitsborough was the most successful studio of the year 1947.

**COMMOTION IN 7
LANGUAGES**

Merle Oberon sneezed on the set of "Berlin Express" and caused a commotion in seven languages.

Chicago-born Robert Ryan said, "God bless you."

Charles Korvin gave the Hungarian word, "Elezzerler!"

Paul Lukas, who plays a German in the film, stayed in character with "Gesundheit."

Director Jacques Tourneur, born in Paris, said, "A vos souhaits."

Polish-born Roman Toporow came up with "Na zdrowie!"

And Linguist Peter von Zernack filled in with the Italian "Salute!" and the Rumanian "Noroc."

MAJESTIC—Courage of Lassie (Elizabeth Taylor)

JOAN DOWLING
Bond-street incident

By HAROLD CONWAY

Eighteen-year-old Joan Dowling (she was the eldest evicuee in the play "No Room at the Inn") had to saunter along the street as an over-dressed match-up from fashion house.

When the "rushes" were shown on the studio screen, there appeared the visage of a man, turning and gazing with interest at Joan. It fitted the scene so well that the shot is being kept.

The unwitting actor may be in for a shock at his local cinema.

NOISES OFF

I HAVE no intention of gate-crashing the To Boo or Not To Boo debate. But recent demonstrations at Covent Garden call for comment.

Friendly operate rivalry is healthy. But if this rivalry is going to foster vocal factions among the followers of the theatres concerned, we can look for someconcerting developments.

Impartial observers have suggested that there might be more than appeared on the surface behind some of the opera boozing lately. Correspondence I have received lends colour to this view.

We have plenty of room in London for opera in English and Italian. There is no need for the partisans to wage a miniature war.

POET'S PALACE

GAINSBOROUGH'S idea of making a Byron film with Dennis Price in the lead, is an interesting one, though attempts to dramatise literary genius do not always succeed, as in a recent Shelley-Byron play staged.

The film will picture some of the authentic Italian backgrounds, including the poet's old palace on the Venice Grand Canal. Mr Price and a location until have recently been out there.

But I am sorry they are calling the picture "The Bad Lord Byron." This seems a cheap pandering to the wrong kind of box-office appeal.

**Studio Highlights
And Sidelights**

SIR Laurence Olivier's "Hamlet," which will be shown for the first time in April, cost £500,000 to produce. Even with all the efforts at retrenchment it still costs about £200,000 to make most major British pictures. An exception is "Shadow of Tomorrow" — which deals with Britain's employment of ex-Nazi concentration camp scientists on research for a possible future war at £70,000.

• • •

MALAYAN-BORN Dulcie Savage-Bailey (Dulcie Gray to filmgoers) has found an attractive job or herself. With husband Michael Dennison she will star in film called "The Glass Mountain," which will necessitate a location trip to the Dolomites. Michael will be a pianist, Dulcie a silly wife, as she is in the current "Mine Own Executioner."

• • •

OBJECTIONS of the present Lord Byron to Gainsborough's film "The Bad Lord Byron" appear to have been overcome. The 86-year-old descendant of Lord George Byron, the poet, recently entertained at his home Thrupenny Bank, Dennis Price, the actor with the title role in the film.

• • •

Spencer's
The Man For
The Ladies

By PATRICIA CLARY

WHO'S the man who most strongly influences today's woman, emotionally? Clark Gable, Van Johnson, Frank Sinatra, her husband?

No, fellows, it's Spencer Tracy. That's what the ladies said, when poll-takers from the Women's Research Guild of America asked them. They said Tracy had a strong, dependable look about him that was very influencing.

Gable, Johnson and the rest of the screen's romantic figures came in screen seconds.

In the past, it was a foregone conclusion that any actor in the cast was a romantic hero but Tracy. No matter how sympathetic Tracy's character, the other fellow got the girl. Gable did for years.

The strength of Gable's romantic scenes was measured in kisses. Tracy was by slammed doors. He was the man who always walked out and said "goodbye."

Tracy Steps Out

But in "Cass Timberlane," MGM's movie of the Sinclair Lewis novel about a respectable Minnesota judge, Tracy brings the dependable, influential hero into his own. He not only marries Lana Turner but takes her away from Cameron Mitchell, and keeps Zachary Scott, the wolf, from the door. He does it again from the door. He does it again in "Angela Lansbury," in which he is married to Katharine Hepburn, who according to the script is wildly in love with him, and attractive to Angela Lansbury.

Tracy even holds his own, in Miss Lansbury's affections, against Van Johnson.

"And that is some satisfaction," Tracy said.

It's almost as satisfying, he said, as being chosen, hands down, the No. 1 influence on American women's emotions.

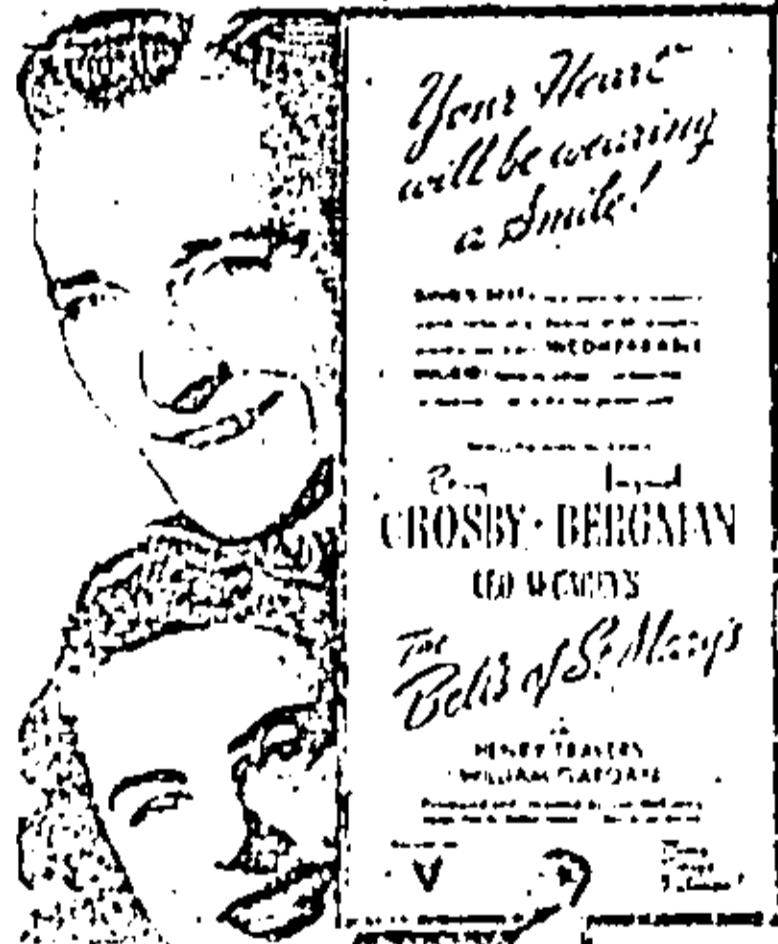
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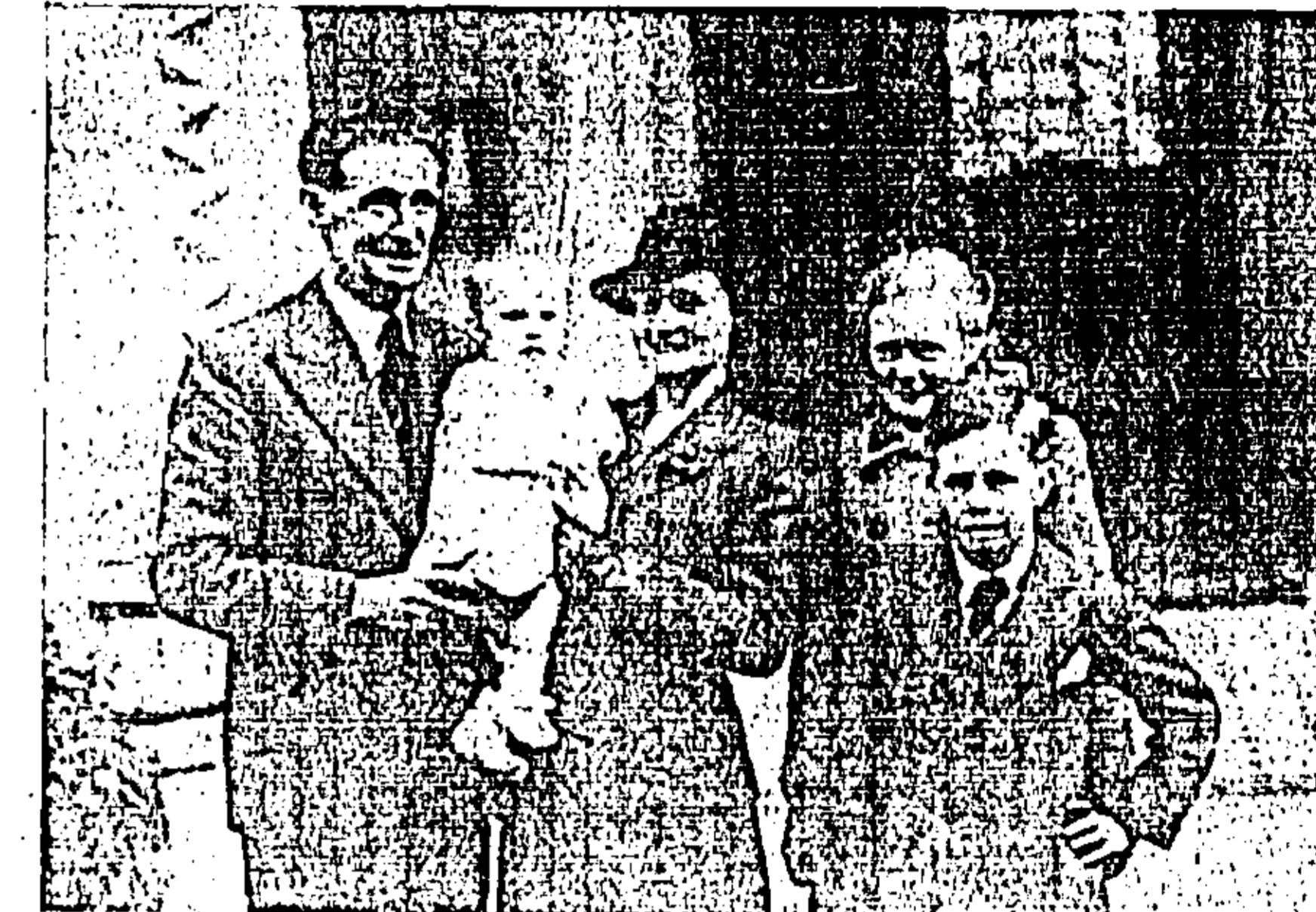
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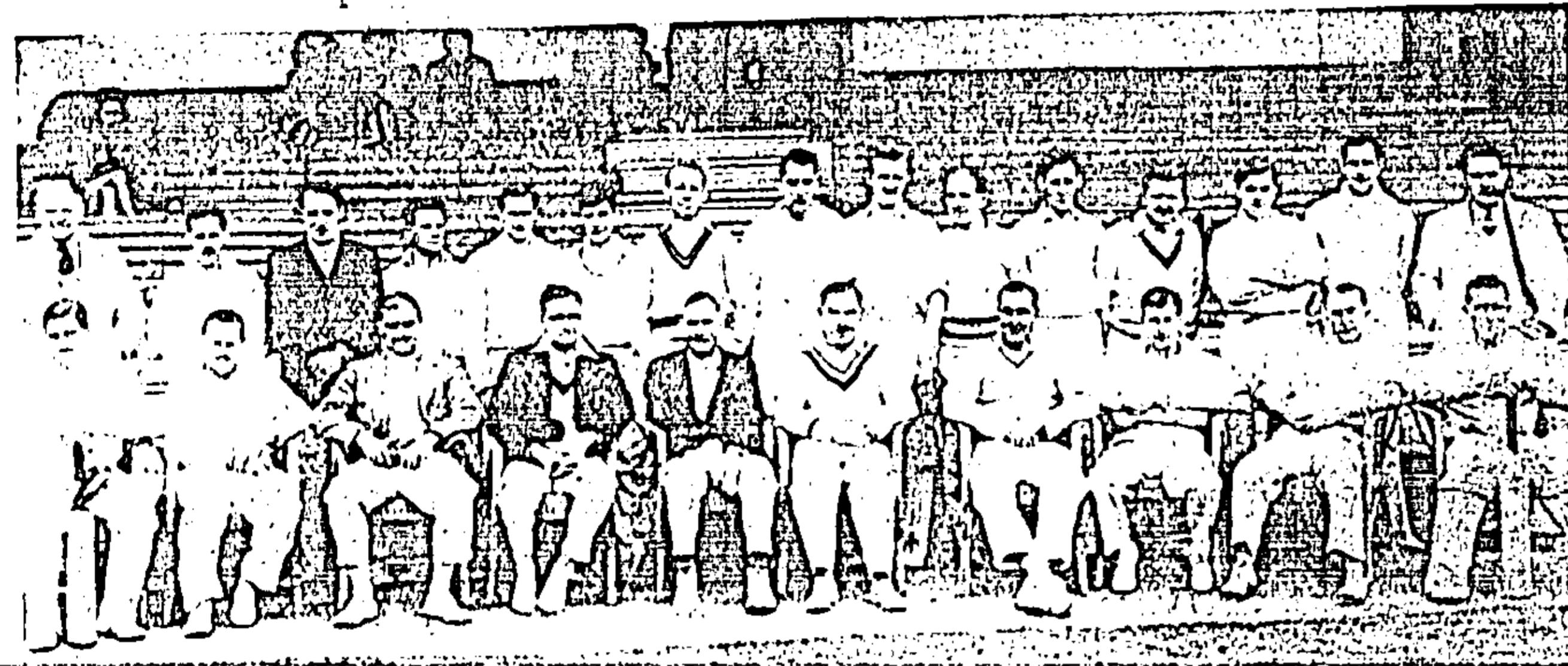
CROWDS PACK VALLEY FOR ANNUAL RACES



THE 1948 annual meeting of the Hongkong Jockey Club opened in brilliant weather last Saturday. Large crowds packed the stands and enclosures throughout the first three days of the meeting. Picture on the top right hand corner of the page gives an idea of the large attendance on Derby Day. Above, the Derby winner, Ataman, ridden by Mr E. A. Brodie, is seen being cheered in after winning the classic. The Ladies' Purse was won by Mr M. M. Boycott on Black Market, and the jockey is seen in top centre picture being presented with the purse by Miss Joan Kenniff. Right, scene during the drawing of the Derby sweepstake. (Photos: Golden Studio and Ming Yuen)



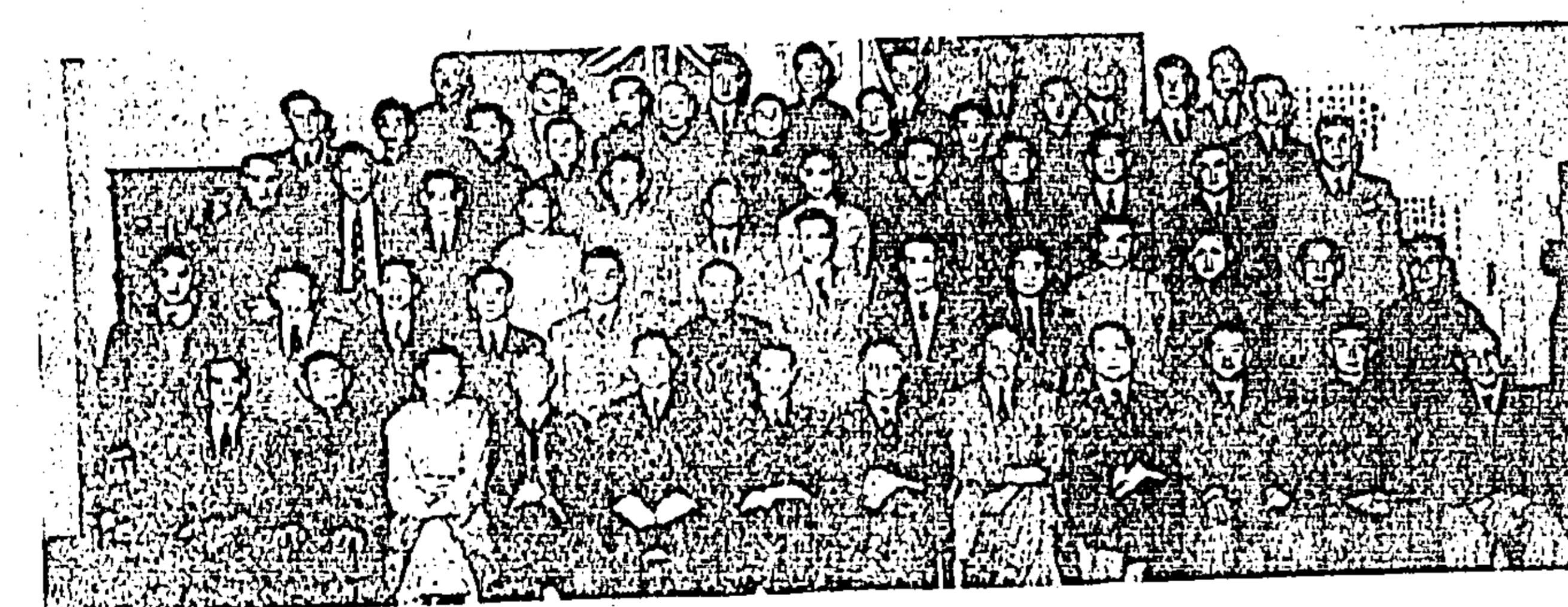
DEANNE ALWYNNE, infant daughter of Mr and Mrs R. R. Davies, was christened at St John's Cathedral last Sunday. (Photo: Ming Yuen)



MILLE. MICHELINE JOBEZ, eldest daughter of the French Consul-General and Mme. Jobez. Portrait was taken on her fifteenth birthday. (Photo: A's Studio)



ANOTHER christening at St John's Cathedral last week was that of Michael Bradbury, infant son of Mr and Mrs S. A. Fowler. (Photo: Ming Yuen)

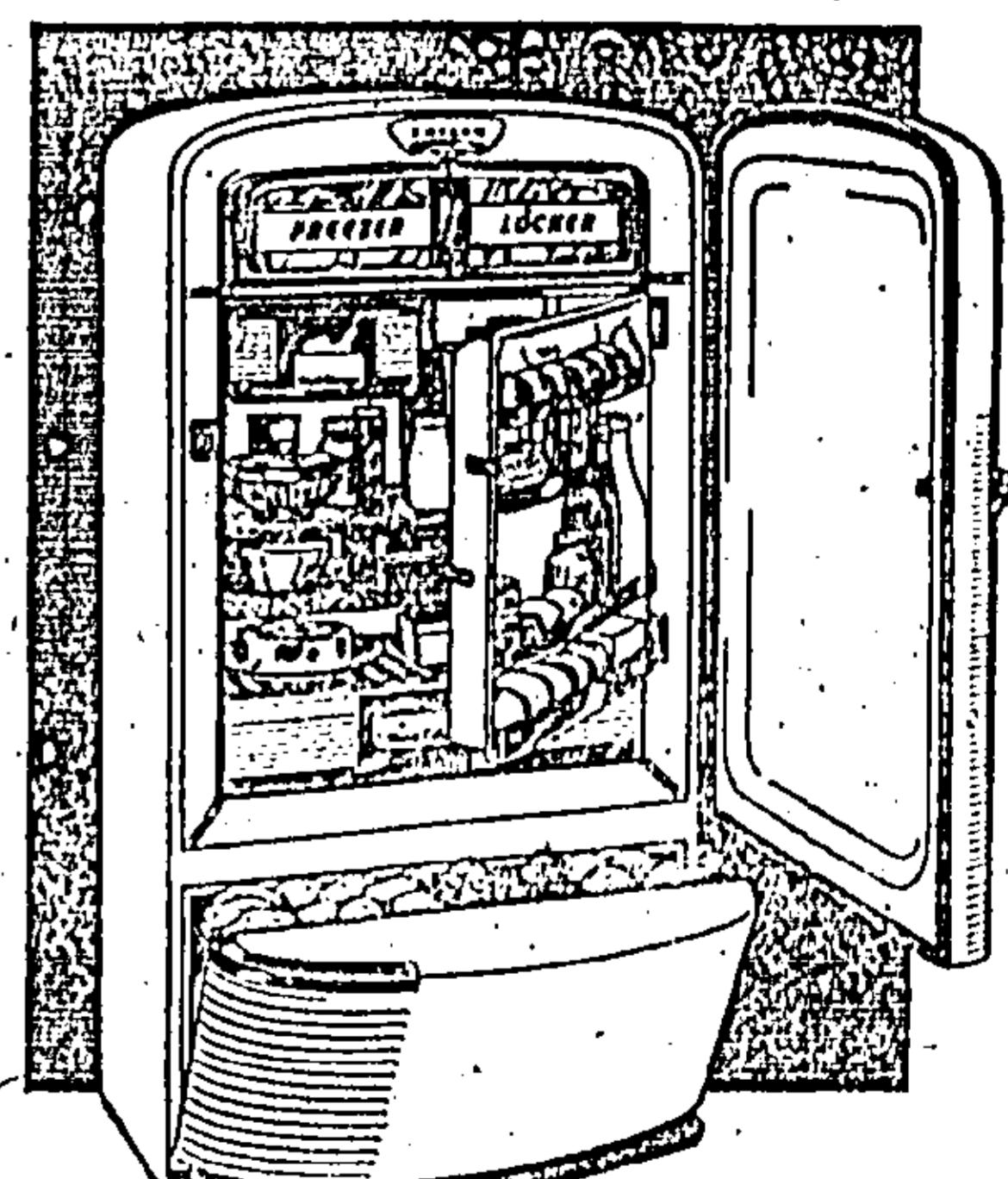


PHOTOGRAPH shows the Committee and members of the Hongkong Flour Merchants' Association. (Photo: Moa Cheung)



INTER-SCHOOL BASKETBALL—Above is the La Salle College team, which won the senior league organised by the South China Athletic Association. On right is the Chung Hwa Middle School team, which won the junior league. (Photos: Golden Studio)

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Jap Politics Riddled With Corruption

Tokyo, Jan. 23.—Prominent American occupation officials charged today that Japanese politics is honeycombed with graft and ridden with gangsterism.

In public conference with members of the Japanese press, Mr Guy J. Swope, former Governor of Puerto Rico, who is now a member of SCAP's government section, uttered a vigorous warning that certain vicious elements in Japanese politics must be exterminated.

"Unless by some means or other the people of Japan can free themselves from the cancer of corruption and graft in politics, their chances to enjoy the benefits of a free government and free society are slight indeed," he said.

Old Influences

Mr Swope added that many old influences which prevented the sound, orderly development of political parties are gone.

"The junta (military clique) have been eliminated and the power of the Zaibatsu (economic clique) has been broken, but today there are the shinryu kaikyu (new rich) and shinko zaibatsu (new money clique) whose impact is being felt upon political parties and their operations," Mr Swope said.

"Then there are the gangsters and black market racketeers, who wield certain influence in politics. The extent of this can be gauged when it is recalled that one of the most notorious gangsters in the nation now in prison was almost elected a member of the present Diet."

Evil Corrupt

Mr Swope charged that "there are many indications that evil and corrupt influences are playing a very important part in the politics of this nation."

"It seems significant that in Japan while many small politicians are brought into court for improper practices, rarely if ever a national figure is arrested for corruption and graft," he added.

"Why is it they are never brought to the bar of justice? Is it because of a peculiar idea in Japan which places those who are on the top of the pile above the law?"—United Press.

THE FALL OF SINGAPORE

Two Questions Still Unanswered

Singapore, Jan. 23.—The newspaper Free Press, commenting on the dispatch of Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, Commander in Chief, Far East, 1940-1941, published today, said the future to recognise that Japan would strike was "the most serious entry of all in a docket heavy with error and miscalculation."

The newspaper considered that though further despatches might cause distress, they should be published.

The English-language Chinese and Malay newspapers today featured a 9,000-word report of the despatch, and the Malaya Tribune declared the report would serve to "whet the appetite" for the despatches of Lieutenant General Arthur Ernest Groom, who was commander in chief in the Far East when Singapore fell.

The Malaya Tribune said the two principal objectives left unanswered were:

"Why was the surrender made when the British Command had about 90,000 men to throw into action?"

"If the situation was hopeless, as it is now seen apparently to have been, why did General Groom issue the snubbed Order of the Day on February 10, 1942, ordering all commanders to resist to the last and die at their posts rather than withdraw?"—Reuter.

3-POWER TALKS NEXT MONTH

London, Jan. 23.—The forthcoming three-power conference on the future of Western Germany will probably be held from February 17 to February 19, it was learned from a reliable source today.

The final decision on time and place of the conference, expected to be held in London, has still to be taken.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London said the central issue before the conference would be the constitution of Western Germany and not, as several press reports suggested, the Frankfurt proposals on the bi-zonal administration recently submitted to the German Premiers.

He agreed, however, that a discussion on the Frankfurt proposals, to which the French Government had raised objections, will certainly take place.—Reuter.

FRENCH CONVOY AMBUSHED

Paris, Jan. 23.—Viet Nam guerrillas today ambushed a French amphibious convoy near Saigon, killing four French soldiers, but the guerrilla forces were beaten off with heavy losses after a fierce skirmish, the French High Command communique reported today, according to an Agence France Presse dispatch from Saigon.

Meanwhile, French Marines have captured a Viet Nam junk near Duchon, killing all the crew and passengers.—Reuter.

Max Schmeling Will Fight Again This Year

Frankfurt, Jan. 23.—Max Schmeling, former world heavyweight champion, told a correspondent of the German-news service in the British zone that he expected to meet the German title holder, Helmut Hoff, for the championship sometime this autumn.

Schmeling declared that he was trying to arrange a match in Sweden with Olle Tandberg, the Swedish champion, or John Nilsson.

He said he would not fight the Italian, Giovanni Martin, in Sweden, since Swedish sports regulations did not permit matches between two foreigners.

Schmeling denied rumours that financial difficulties had compelled him to stage a "comeback."

"The only reason is my love of boxing," he said.—Reuter.

Indonesian Cabinet Decides To Resign

Batavia, Jan. 23.—The Indonesian Republic's National Cabinet, headed by Dr Amir Sjarifuddin, resigned tonight, exactly one week after the signing of the truce agreement with the Dutch.

The resignation had been predicted after the crisis this week over the conditions attached by the Republic to its acceptance last Monday of the six political principles suggested by the United Nations Security Council's "Good Offices" Committee as the basis for a substantive political settlement to the two-and-a-half-year-old dispute with the Dutch.

Broadcasting from Jogyakarta tonight, the President of the Republic, Dr Soekarno, told Indonesians that he had given his Vice-President, Dr Mohammed Hatta, a mandate to form a new government.

Masjumi Withdraws

The Republican Moslem Party, called the Masjumi, the biggest in the Republic, almost simultaneously announced its withdrawal from the Sjarifuddin Cabinet.

Five Ministers immediately resigned, and two positions on the Republican delegation to take part in the negotiations sponsored by the "Good Offices" Committee became vacant.

Subsequent efforts to induce the Masjumi to rejoin the Cabinet were unsuccessful.

The resignation of the Republican Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Ulrip, and one of his major-generals, who were members of the Republican special committee negotiating the technical details of the cease-fire and truce, also followed Dr Sjarifuddin's acceptance of the six principles.

General Ulrip, it is understood, claimed that he was not consulted before the Republican decision was announced.

Political Principles

The most serious difficulty for Dr Sjarifuddin, however, arose this week-end when the Netherlands objected to the manner in which the Republican Premier had accepted the most significant six of the 18 political principles suggested by the "Good Offices" Committee.

The Netherlands Government yesterday said that its delegation had accepted the six principles fully and unconditionally, and expected the Republic to do the same.

The Republican acceptance had been conditional upon matters recorded in the minutes of its vital meetings with the "Good Offices" Committee before its acceptance of the true terms at Jogyakarta.

These have not been disclosed, but are understood to concern the status of the Republic in the intervening period before a political settlement is reached.

Republican sources in Batavia that if that had been done several of the major political parties, probably including Dr Sjarifuddin's own Socialist Party, would have withdrawn their support from the Government.

Although there is not yet any definite information from Jogyakarta, Republican sources here believe that the fall of the Cabinet came about in anticipation of this happening.

Cabinet Reshuffled

The Sjarifuddin Cabinet took office on the fall of the Cabinet of Dr Sultan Sjabir last July, just before the Dutch began their policy action. It was formed from a coalition of left-wing parties, of which Dr Sjarifuddin himself was leader, and the Nationalist Party, with some Moslem support.

The Cabinet was reshuffled in November to include the Masjumi Party.

According to the Republicans, the "Good Offices" Committee had assured Dr Arie Sjarifuddin in the minutes that the Republic's status was not compromised by the first of the six principles, which said that Netherlands' sovereignty would remain until transferred to the United States of Indonesia, and provided for the Republic to accept state status in the United States of Indonesia.

Dr Frank P. Graham, the American member of the "Good Offices" Committee and Mr T. K. Critchley, the Australian deputy member, are flying to Jogyakarta tomorrow to endeavour to settle this difficulty.

Committee's Advice

Reliable sources said tonight that it was considered likely that the "Good Offices" Committee would have told Dr Sjarifuddin of the Netherlands' attitude to his conditional acceptance and advised him to accept unconditionally.

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MILITARY MEN IN GOVERNMENT

Chicago, Jan. 23.—Defence Secretary James V. Forrestal said today there is "no conscious plan to plant military men throughout the government."

He added: "The people would not stand for it."

Mr Forrestal said he believed it was "bad to plant men from any particular group through the government."

He made the statement in response to a query for his views on the appointment of military personnel to government jobs generally, and attempt by President Truman to have Maj.-Gen. Laurence S. Kuter appointed chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board.

He said he had received a letter from Congress asking for comments on government appointments.

"I think our government needs views accumulating from men from various groups," he said.

Balanced Forces

Mr Forrestal said the Navy and Marines are close to their manpower goals but that the army ground forces are deficient in manpower.

He said there is a tendency to think too much about air power at present, adding: "We must remember there are the ground forces and the navy. We must keep in mind the need of balanced forces."

He said he had not heard from Gen. Douglas MacArthur for three months and had no idea when Gen. MacArthur would retire.

Asked if he believed Gen. MacArthur would seek Presidential nomination, Mr Forrestal said: "I do not know whether he will run, if doubt if he does."—United Press.

As Gen. Franco Sees It

Madrid, Jan. 23.—General Francisco Franco told the Political Board of the Spanish Falangist Party that the "grave period" the world was going through was not so much "postwar" as "prewar," according to reliable sources here today.

Stressing Spain's continued strong anti-Communist position, he said the country must at all times hold herself in readiness to meet danger.

He referred to the position of Greece as "an example of the lengths to which Russia was ready to go."

General Franco was reported to have said that Spain's internal economic situation was far from satisfactory, although difficulties could be solved by increased production and harder work.

Criticising the Falangist Party, he said only the Youth Front deserved his approval.—Reuter.

British Protest To Argentina

Buenos Aires, Jan. 23.—The Argentine Government announced today that a group of army specialists would shortly go to the Antarctic on a cruise with two vessels of the Argentine Navy.

The Argentine Government is at present studying two notes from Britain on the action Argentina has taken in what the Argentine Foreign Minister has called "the Antarctic sector of Argentina, over which Britain maintains aspirations."

A British Foreign Office spokesman remarked this week that Britain has protested sharply against the erection of an Argentine base on Conception Island, in the British Falkland Island Dependencies.

The Argentine's reply is expected next week, probably on Monday.

The rejection of the British notes has been advocated in the Buenos Aires press and the newspaper La Prensa said: "The Falklands are ours; there can be no question, no dispute, and no bargaining."—Reuter.

Cabinet Reshuffled

The Sjarifuddin Cabinet took office on the fall of the Cabinet of Dr Sultan Sjabir last July, just before the Dutch began their policy action. It was formed from a coalition of left-wing parties, of which Dr Sjarifuddin himself was leader, and the Nationalist Party, with some Moslem support.

The Cabinet was reshuffled in November to include the Masjumi Party.

According to the Republicans, the "Good Offices" Committee had assured Dr Arie Sjarifuddin in the minutes that the Republic's status was not compromised by the first of the six principles, which said that Netherlands' sovereignty would remain until transferred to the United States of Indonesia, and provided for the Republic to accept state status in the United States of Indonesia.

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He said New York, Boston and other cities on the east coast should profit by the sad experience of west coast cities.

In his new book, "Causes of Catastrophe," Dr Leet admitted that some seismologists may disagree with his reported "seismic province" embracing New England and adjacent sections of north-eastern America in an epoch of increasing seismicity which probably has not yet passed its climax."

He reported that in years gone by the intervals between larger shocks have been decreasing which is an indication of the approach of a new "epoch of increasing seismicity."

Dr Leet said: "There is absolutely no way of knowing there will be as

much as a single quake more in the next century, but experience in New England and other parts of the world indicates a strong probability that there will be more strong ones in central and southern parts district."

He said there are some areas of weakness in New York city through Connecticut and elsewhere in New England. He said cities in east United States should redesign themselves to the possibility of an earthquake and added that steps have already been taken to prevent a repetition of the San Francisco fire.

"There lie the first requirements of quake-proofing any city," Dr Leet said. "Fire is a specific hazard (95 per cent to the total damage in San Francisco and Tokyo), which can be guarded against."—United Press.

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